BRIEF ENCOUNTER: Valentine's Day lingerie for every personality | Page 33



A PUBLICATION OF The Washington Post | WWW.WASHINGTONPOST.COM/EXPRESS | FEBRUARY 8, 2006

Wednesday Cartoon Fury a 'Global Crisis'



A newly discovered species of honeyeater.

Animal Planet: 'Lost World' of wildlife found in Indonesia | 8

Diet Letdown: Studies find low-fat won't ward off cancer | 5

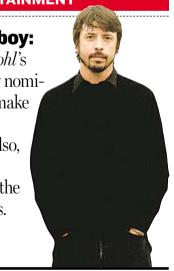


Here's Johnny: On and off the ice, Weir puts on quite a show | 14

ENTERTAINMENT

Homeboy: Dave Grohl's Grammy nominations make Virginia proud. Also, competing with the Olympics.





Weather >> Partly Sunny



NEGOTIATING | No Escape A man caused nearly \$1 million in damages to a Ford dealership in Miami because he was angry about the price he had paid for a new car, WTVJ-TV reported. Gerald Georgettis has been charged with plowing his newly bought

Danish PM calls for calm as Muslim outrage turns deadly

KABUL, AFGHANISTAN | International peacekeepers clashed Tuesday with Afghans protesting in a remote northern city against caricatures of the Prophet Muhammad, leaving three demonstrators dead and forcing NATO to send in more troops.

Senior Afghan officials said al Qaeda and the Taliban could be exploiting anger over the cartoons to incite violence, which spread to at least six cities in a second day of bloody unrest in Afghanistan.

Demonstrations rumbled on around the

Muslim world and the political repercussions deepened, with Iran suspending all trade and economic ties with Denmark, where the drawings were first published in September.

Danish Prime Minister Fogh Rasmussen called the protests a "global crisis" and appealed for calm. "Now it has become an international political matter," he said. "I urge calm and steadiness."

In a new turn, a prominent Iranian newspaper, Hamshahri, invited artists to enter a Holocaust cartoon competition, saying it want-



Rasmussen

ed to see if the freedom of expression used to justify the cartoons also applied to Holocaust images.

The drawings have touched a raw nerve. Islam is interpreted to forbid any illustrations of the Prophet Muhammad

for fear they could lead to idolatry. Media outlets say they have reprinted them sometimes to illustrate stories about the controversy but also, in some cases, to support the principle of free speech. (AP)

Final Tributes to Coretta Scott King



PRESIDENTIAL PRAISE: President Bush speaks at the funeral of Coretta Scott King on Tuesday, hailing the widow of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. as "a woman who worked to make our nation whole." More than 30 speakers, including four U.S. presidents, addressed the immense crowd of mourners, saluting "the first lady of the civil rights movement" for her efforts to realize her husband's dream of racial equality. 💠 Undercurrent: Politics and mourning | Page 3



Ford Escape through the showroom, then pouring gas on it and setting it on fire. Georgettis was upset about how much he was charged for the SUV, which usually sells for about \$20,000. It's unclear what Georgettis paid. (EXPRESS) EyeOpeners | Page 2

FULL FORECAST ON PAGE 31

Openers

THE FUTURE

But Still Waiting On That 'Abyss' Goop

An Israeli inventor has developed an underwater breathing system that acts like artificial gills, taking oxygen from seawater without a tank, the BBC reported. The "LikeAFish" system is battery-powered and designed for use by everything from scuba divers to submarines. The only limitation to Alon Bodner's invention is the length of the battery power that runs it. The device — which is being installed in an Australian underwater habitat — has been patented in Europe and is awaiting a patent in the United States. A smaller version that is incorporated into a diving yest is about two vears away from development, he said. (EXPRESS)

воом

Give It Some Gas

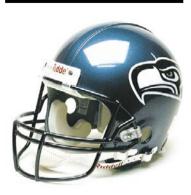
A Sheridan, Colo., man has been charged with possession of explosives after he accidentally blew up his car with a gas-filled balloon he was taking to a party Sunday, KMGH-TV reported. Police had received reports of an explosion at a gas station, and, when they arrived, found the destroyed vehicle. Officials traced the license plate to an address where they found a man and a woman with shrapnel wounds and injured eardrums. The two admitted being in the car and said they had a balloon filled with acetylene, a flammable welding gas, that they planned to explode at the party. But static electricity ignited it from the back seat. (AP)



LURES

Sea the Light

The best way to attract fish? Make your own little Studio 54 for them. At least, that's the idea of inventor Dr. Milan Jeckle. When he's fishing, he sprays his lure with a UVA-light-reflecting spray he developed and calls "Fool-a-Fish." Fool-a-Fish spray utilizes titanium dioxide on fishing lures and bait, and the chemical lights up the watery depths like a disco ball, according to Jeckle. No word on if pumping the Bee Gees through the bottom of the boat helps as well. (EXPRESS)



FOOTBALL

He Was Sentenced to Life as a Texans Fan

A Tacoma, Wash., judge startled prosecutors, sheriff's deputies and spectators Friday by leading a Super Bowl cheer for the Seattle Seahawks before a sentencing hearing in a manslaughter case. After all were told to rise as Beverly Grant took the bench, she asked everyone in court to say, "Go Seahawks" before taking their seats. Dissatisfied with the low volume of the response, she repeated the request. Only then did she resentence the man to 13 1/2 years in prison. (AP)



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—Sen. Arlen Specter, vowing to stand up to cuts in this year's White House budget proposal

Nation

In Brief

NEW ORLEANS

Thousands of Katrina Victims Evicted From Hotels

Thousands of Hurricane Katrina refugees were evicted from their hotel rooms across the country Tuesday. More than 4,500 evacuees were expected to check out of their government-paid hotel rooms Tuesday as the Federal Emergency Management Agency began cutting off money to pay for their stays. More than 20,000 storm victims were given extensions by FEMA until at least next week. (AP)

CAPE CANAVERAL, FLA.

Fuel Leak Delays Fossett's Attempt at Global Flight

A fuel leak problem Tuesday prevented Steve Fossett from taking off on his quest to break a 20-year-old record for the longest flight. Fossett hoped to try again early Wednesday. His goal is to break a distance record by flying his experimental airplane about 27,000 miles nonstop over $3\frac{1}{2}$ days. (AP)

PROVIDENCE, R.I.

Ex-Manager Pleads Guilty In Nightclub Fire Deaths

The former tour manager for the heavy metal rock group Great White pleaded guilty to 100 counts of involuntary manslaughter Tuesday for setting off the pyrotechnics that caused a deadly nightclub fire. Under a plea bargain, Daniel Biechele, 29, will serve no more than 10 years in jail. The 2003 blaze killed 100 people and injured more than 200. (AP)

Thousands Bid Farewell to King

Four presidents among mourners honoring life of civil rights icon

LITHONIA, GA. | Ten thousand mourners — including four U.S. presidents, numerous members of Congress and many gray-haired veterans of the civil rights movement — said goodbye to Coretta Scott King on Tuesday, with President Bush saluting her as "a woman who worked to make our nation whole."

An immense crowd filled the New Birth Missionary Baptist Church, where more than three dozen speakers at the funeral took turns remembering the widow of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., who worked to realize her husband's dream of equality for nearly 40 years after his assassination.



Kevin Bowman, left, of Augusta, Ga., and Sharon Hearns of Birmingham, Ala., sing while watching the funeral of Coretta Scott King in Lithonia, Ga., Tuesday.

She died Jan. 30 at age 78 after battling ovarian cancer and the effects of a stroke.

The president ordered flags flown at half-staff across the

country.

The funeral at times turned political, with some speakers decrying the war in Iraq, the Bush administration's eavesdropping program, and the sluggish response to Hurricane Katrina in mostly black New Orleans.

The Rev. Joseph Lowery drew a roaring standing ovation when he said: "For war, billions more, but no more for the poor" — a takeoff on a line from a Stevie Wonder song. The comment drew head shakes from Bush and his father as they sat behind the pulpit.

The lavish service stood in sharp contrast to the 1968 funeral for King's husband. President Lyndon B. Johnson did not attend those services, which were held in the much smaller and older Ebenezer Church in Atlanta, where King had preached. Errin Haines (AP)

First lady of civil rights: View a photo gallery of Coretta Scott King's funeral at washingtonpost.com

Reserves, Guard Roles to Shrink

washington | The National Guard and Reserves will play a much smaller role next year in Iraq and Afghanistan, dropping to less than one-fifth of overall U.S. forces there, the nation's top military officer told senators Tuesday.

In response to repeated questions about the strain on reserve forces on the front lines, Gen. Peter Pace, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, told the Senate Armed

Services Committee that Guard and Reserves will make up just 19 percent of the forces deployed in Iraq and Afghanistan over the



Pace

They now make up about 30 percent of U.S. forces in those countries, Pace said. The planned reduction would lower

next year.

the reserves' proportion of total U.S. forces in Iraq and Afghanistan by about one third. (AP)

Calif. Wildfires Prompt Evacuations

ANAHEIM, CALIF. | Helicopters and air tankers bombarded a wind-driven 3,500-acre wildfire with water and flame-retardant Tuesday as firefighters struggled to protect some 2,100 evacuated homes.

The blaze, which began Monday in the forest east of the cities of Anaheim and Orange, was only 7 percent contained, said Dennis Shell, a spokesman for the Orange County Fire Authority. The cause of the fire was under investigation.



Fire crews work to contain a blaze in the Anaheim Hills late Monday.

Dry desert winds gusting up to 40 mph hampered the 900 fire-fighters as they worked to beat the flames back, GILLIAN FLACCUS (AP)



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The percentage of parents who say their kids get too much homework, according to an AP-AOL poll. Most parents and teachers believe their kids get an appropriate amount.

Nation



A volunteer firefighter sprays water on the smoldering remains of Morning Star Missionary near Boligee, Ala. on Tuesday.

4 More Ala. Churches Burn

New blazes come days after string of suspected arsons in rural areas

BOLIGEE, ALA. | Fires damaged or destroyed four more Baptist churches across rural Alabama Tuesday, less than a week after a string of five blazes that were ruled arson.

Tuesday's fires took place at

churches off rural roads, about 10 to 20 miles apart. They were in a cluster of three counties, about 60 miles from the Bibb County area where the five other churches were burned early Friday.

"Obviously we're going to investigate these as suspected arsons," said state insurance spokesperson Ragan Ingram. He said investigators were pursuing several leads in last week's fires, but "the leads haven't led us to a specific suspect or a motive."

The FBI said it is looking into whether the Bibb County fires were civil rights violations under laws covering attacks on religious property. State and federal rewards totaling \$10,000 have been offered.

The nine churches that burned included both white and black congregations. JAY REEVES (AP)

Low-Fat Diet Is Not a **Cure-All, Study Shows**

Older women failed to lower disease risks by eating more healthily

CHICAGO | Eating less fat late in life failed to lower the risk of cancer and heart disease among older women, sad news for those who expected more benefits from a healthy diet.

Even so, scientists say the results from the government study of 48,835 women don't mean dieters should just give up and eat cake.

Researchers suggested that the women in the long-running study — with an average age of 62 - may have started their healthy eating too late.

They also didn't reduce fats as much as the diet demanded, and most remained overweight, a major risk factor for cancer and heart problems.

"These results do not suggest that people have carte blanche to eat fatty foods without health problems," said Dr. JoAnn Manson, chief of preventive medicine at Harvard's Brigham and Women's Hospital, and the a co-author of the study.

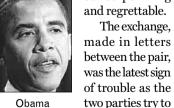
The eight-year study showed no difference in the rate of breast cancer, colon cancer and heart disease among those who ate lower-fat diets and those who didn't.

But the scientists declined to call the \$415 million venture a failure, pointing to signs of less breast cancer in women who cut out the most fat, and in less heart disease in women who ate low amounts of the worst kinds of fats. Lindsey tanner (AP)

McCain, Obama **Squabble Over Lobbying Ethics**

WASHINGTON | Republican Sen. John McCain accused his Democratic colleague Barack Obama of "partisan posturing" on the issue of lobbying ethics reform — a charge Obama

called puzzling and regrettable. The exchange, made in letters



Ohama

come up with legislation to govern lobbying.

was the latest sign

Based on past Obama statements, "I concluded your professed concern for the institution and the public interest was genuine and admirable," McCain wrote in a letter to Obama on Monday. "Thank you for disabusing me of such notions."(AP)

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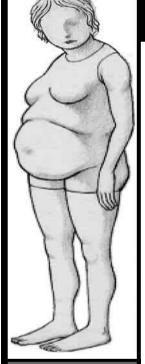
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CAIRO, EGYPT

Government: Hours Passed Before It Was Told of Ferry

Egypt's presidential spokesman said Tuesday the owners of the Red Sea ferry that sank last week, drowning about 1,000 people, did not inform the government of the disaster for nearly six hours. Suleiman Awad emerged from a Cabinet session to say the government first heard from owner Al Salam Maritime Transport Co. that the ship was in danger at 7 a.m. Friday. By most accounts, the vessel sank no later than 2 a.m., five hours earlier. (AP)



Acting Israeli leader Ehud Olmert views a map during a West Bank tour Tuesday.

JERUSALEM

Olmert Envisions Giving Up More Portions of West Bank

Acting Prime Minister Ehud Olmert said on Tuesday that Israel will give up territory and relinquish control over most of the West Bank's Palestinians, while holding on to main settlement blocs — his clearest statement about how he sees Israel's future final borders. Olmert told Channel 2 TV that if his Kadima Party wins March 28 elections, Israel would hold on to Jerusalem and three major West Bank settlement blocs, along with the strategic Jordan River valley. (AP)

KANDAHAR, AFGHANISTAN Suicide Bomber Kills 13. **Injures 11 at Police Station**

A suicide bomber on a motorcycle plowed into a guard post Tuesday at a police headquarters in this former Taliban stronghold, killing 13 people and wounding 11. The attack in Kandahar was the latest in a series of bombings that has raised new worries about the nascent democracy's future. The blasts may also signal the militants might be copying tactics of insurgents in Iraq. (AP)

Haitians Jam Polls on Election Day

After scattered delays, people vote 'massively' for nation's next leader

PORT-AU-PRINCE, HAITI | Scuffles broke out and polling stations opened hours late Tuesday as masses of Haitians waited — sometimes in mile-long lines — to vote under the protection of U.N. peacekeepers crouching behind machine guns and patrolling alongside armored vehicles.

Outside the gang-controlled Cite Soleil slum, frustrated voters pounded on empty ballot boxes and chanted, "It's time for Cite Soleil to

Rene Preval, a 63-year-old former president backed by many poor Haitians, is the front-runner, according to pre-election polls. In an interview, he said "people are investing everything in this election."

Turnout for the vote — called a key step toward steering this bloodied, impoverished nation away from collapse — all but overwhelmed electoral officials. At dawn, when the 800 polling stations were supposed to open, it became apparent the day would not go smoothly. In the upscale Petionville suburb of the capital, members of a crowd of thousands of voters stormed a



Brazilian U.N. peacekeepers try to close the gate to a polling station as voters push forward in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, Tuesday.

voting station.

"The people have voted massively," Juan Gabriel Valdes, a U.N. special envoy, said after election officials extended the voting period by several hours.

Government officials sought to maintain calm, assuring Haitians that everyone would have a chance to vote. By mid-afternoon, the process appeared more orderly.

Election authorities said the problems were largely limited to Port-au-Prince. By early afternoon, all polls across this country of 8.3 million were open, said U.N. spokesman David Wimhurst.

The stakes are huge — more than simply who will lead the country or occupy seats in parliament. Haiti, which has seen only one president complete his term in office, could implode if the elections go wrong, experts say. Andrew selsky (AP)



Steps forward: Post deputy foreign editor Pam Constable takes questions on the Haitian vote and the country's future | washingtonpost.com/liveonline at II a.m.

Nepal Bracing For Disputed Poll

KATMANDU, NEPAL | Nepal braced for its first elections in seven years Wednesday, with the king squaring off against communist rebels and dissidents who hoped to disrupt the polls and the government threatening to shoot anyone caught doing so.

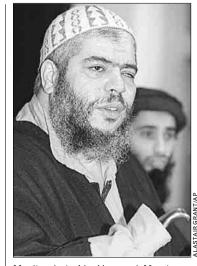
The municipal elections were intended by the Nepal's absolute king to quell the long-running power struggle among the monarchy, political parties and Maoist rebels. Because of rebel threats. opposition boycott and government intimidation, candidates have registered in less than half of the races for local officials. (AP)

Cleric Found Guilty of Inciting Murder

British jury convicts fiery former imam for extremist dialogue

LONDON | A British judge sentenced radical Muslim cleric Abu Hamza al-Masri to seven years in prison Tuesday for promoting the slaying of non-Muslims as a "religious duty" when he led a London mosque seen as the spiritual haven for two al Qaeda-linked terrorists.

Judge Anthony Hughes told the former imam of the Finsbury Park mosque that his speeches had endangered people around the world. The mosque — described by British Home Secretary Charles



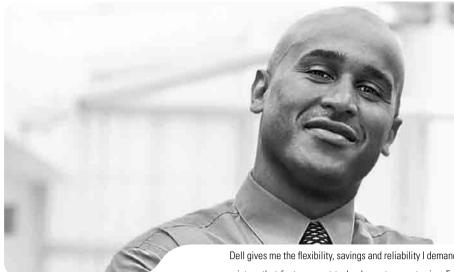
Muslim cleric Abu Hamza al-Masri, seen here in 1999, got seven years in jail.

Clark as a "honeypot for extremists" — was attended by both Sept. 11 plotter Zacarias Moussaoui and "shoe bomber" Richard Reid.

The one-eyed, hook-handed preacher sat impassively as the foreman of the jury read out guilty verdicts on 11 out of 15 counts, including incitement to murder, fomenting racial hatred, possessing a terrorist document and possessing abusive recordings. He had faced a maximum of life in prison.

The cleric's attorneys said he planned to appeal. Defense lawyer Muddassar Arani said al-Masri believed he was "a prisoner of faith, and this is a slow martyrdom for him." TARIQ PANJA (AP)

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**Source: J.D. Power and Associates 2009 Printer Customer and associates 2009 Printer Customer Saussaction study.

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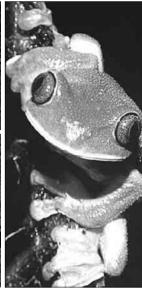


PRICEY PERCH: Looking for something to brighten your home, garden or hotel? How about a million-dollar coconut tree? An extremely rare coconut tree with three heads is on sale for a cool million by an Ivorian research center hoping to raise funds.













A 'Lost World' in Indonesia

Treasure trove of wildlife found in area untouched by humans

JAKARTA, INDONESIA | Soon after scientists landed by helicopter in the mist-shrouded mountains of one of Indonesia's most remote provinces, they stumbled on a primitive egglaying mammal that simply allowed itself to be picked up and brought to their field camp.

Describing a "Lost World" - apparently never visited by humans — members of the team

said Tuesday they also saw large mammals that have been hunted to near-extinction elsewhere and discovered dozens of exotic new species of frogs, butterflies and palms.

We've only scratched the surface," said Bruce Beehler, a co-leader of the monthlong trip to the Foja Mountains, an area in the eastern province of Papua with roughly 2 million acres of pristine tropical forest.

Two headmen from the Kwerba and Papasena tribes, the customary landowners of the mountain

THEGEORGE

WASHINGTON

UNIVERSITY

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WASHINGTON DC

range, accompanied the expedition, and "they were as astounded as we were at how isolated it was," Beehler said.

Minutes after the small team of American, Indonesian and Australian scientists were dropped into a boggy lake bed and set up camp, they said they encountered a new species of bird - a red-faced and wattled honeyeater.

Among their most memorable experiences were their encounters with the long-beaked echidna, members of the primitive egglaying group of mammals called the MODERN MARVELS: Among the creatures scientists encountered on the Papua expedition were, clockwise from left, a golden-mantled tree kangaroo, a long-beaked echidna, a new species of treefrog, a golden-fronted bowerbird, a new species of smoky honeyeater and an unidentified species of frog. Four new butterfly species and at least five new types of palms were also found.

Monotremes, which twice allowed themselves to be picked up and brought to camp for observation.

Beehler attributed the lack of fear displayed by the long-snouted spine-covered echidnas to the fact that they probably had never come into contact with humans. ROBIN MCDOWELL (AP)

Japanese Princess Is Pregnant

Chance for new male heir to throne comes amid succession debate

TOKYO | Princess Kiko is pregnant, the Imperial Household Agency said Tuesday, raising the possibility of the first male heir to the Chrysanthemum Throne in 40 years.

The news came as the govern-

ment weighed a plan to allow a womantoassume the throne for the first time in two centuries in a bid to avert a succession crisis.



Princess Kiko

The princess had an ultrasound Tuesday morning and felt the fetus move, Kyodo News agency said, adding that she is expected to give birth in September or October.

Kiko, 39, wife of Prince Akishino, has two daughters, aged 14 and 11. Crown Prince Naruhito, first in line to the throne, has one daughter with his wife, Crown Princess Masako. MARI YAMAGUCHI (AP)

Have you had severe mood swings and now feel

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- Are you worried or anxious most of the time?
- Do others tell you that you worry needlessly or worry too much?
- Are you so agitated that you can't enjoy your life?
- Are you so on edge that your health is affected?
- Do you suffer from shortness of breath, palpitations, difficulty sleeping, excessive sweating, or abdominal distress?

If so, you may have Generalized Anxiety Disorder.

If you are between the ages of 18 and 65, you may qualify to participate in a research study in which you will receive investigational medication and study-related physical exams at no cost. This study is located near the Foggy Bottom Metro station and requires 9 visits over 12 weeks.

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Total number of years in prison that a Coebur, Va., man could have been sentenced to for dumping the remains of 136 dogs and one cat near the Tennessee border. Under a plea deal, the pet crematory worker will face five years behind bars.

Local

Future of Lease Is Unclear

Key supporter fears D.C. ballpark proposal can't win council's OK

WASHINGTON | The fate of a proposed Washington Nationals baseball stadium lease remained uncertain late Tuesday after a key supporter predicted it was unlikely to be approved.

Councilman Vincent Orange, D-Ward 5, told The Associated Press that Mayor Anthony A. Williams' proposal lacked the seven votes needed for approval.

The council moved into a private session to discuss emergency legislation that would cap the city's construction costs for the stadium at \$300 million. That measure would need nine votes to pass. It was unclear whether the lease itself



At-Large D.C. Council member Carol Schwartz talks with Ward 5 Council member Vincent Orange during Tuesday's council proceedings at the Wilson Building.

would come up for a vote.

"If we don't get this thing done today, we're going into arbitration,"

the mayor said, warning construction costs would only increase during arbitration. DERRILL HOLLY (AP)

CIA Staffer Arrested as Serial Burglar

FAIRFAX, VA. | A CIA worker was arrested and charged with being the serial burglar responsible for more than a dozen incidents near the spy agency's headquarters, authorities said Tuesday.

Fairfax County police charged George C. Dalmas III with 17 burglaries in McLean between October and last month. Dalmas, 44, of Falls Church, faced numerous counts of burglary and grand larceny, and investigators said other charges were possible.

The CIA said Dalmas was suspended without pay and the agency was cooperating in the investigation. (AP)

The Lotteries

Tuesday, Feb. 7

DISTRICT	
Mid-day Lucky Numbers	5-3-5 (Red)
Evening Lucky Numbers	5-0-7 (White)
Mid-day DC 4	2-0-4-3
Evening DC 4	2-8-7-7
Rolling Cash Five	21-11-32-29-02

MARYLAND

Daily 6

Mid-day Pick 3 6-9-

14-21-29-18-24-20 Bonus: 27

Evening Pick 3 9-9-2 Mid-day Pick 4 3-0-6-6 Evening Pick 4 8-6-5-9 Match 5 09-21-25-31-34 Bonus: 13

VIRGINIA	
Mid-day Pick 3 (Tues.)	6-8-7
Evening Pick 3 (Mon.)	0-9-4
Mid-day Pick 4 (Tues.)	3-8-6-0
Evening Pick 4 (Mon.)	7-5-6-0
Mid-day Cash 5 (Tues.)	03-15-23-30-34
Evening Cash 5 (Mon.)	04-05-07-11-27

All winning numbers are official only when validated at a lottery ticket location or a lottery claims office.

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Local



GREENS STAY: Prince William County school officials were considering taking salads off their lunch menus, citing kids' preference for burgers, nachos and chicken tenders over greenery. But nutrition-minded parents and teachers stepped in to save the salads.

Kaine Plans Traffic Forums

Va. governor will try to sell transportation plan directly to voters

RICHMOND, VA. | The day after a House of Delegates committee gutted his transportation funding package, Gov. Timothy M. Kaine said he will take his case to the people in a series of five town hall-style meetings.

Kaine has proposed a combination of land-use reforms and tax increases that would raise about \$1 billion a year for transportation projects. The Senate has its own plan in the same price range. The House has not yet proposed a funding package.

"By next Monday, I think most of the pieces will be on the table," Kaine told reporters Tuesday after speaking at a rally attended by about 200 slow-growth advocates who support his proposals to give localities more control over trafficworsening sprawl.



Virginia Gov. Tim Kaine takes questions from the media at a rally in Richmond on Tuesday where he sought to build support for his transportation package.

The first stop will be Monday in Norfolk. The tour will reprise the series of 11 regional meetings Kaine held after his election in November to hear citizens' suggestions for solving the state's traffic problems.

Kaine said he was not surprised

by the House Finance Committee's rejection of his bills to raise taxes on automobile sales and insurance premiums. The House is controlled by conservative Republicans who generally oppose higher taxes.

LARRY O'DELL (AP)

In Brief

ANNAPOLIS, MD.

Md. Democrats: Ehrlich's Emissions Plan Is Weak

Republican Gov. Robert Ehrlich's plan to slash toxic emissions from power plants doesn't go far

enough to protect public health, Democrats said Tuesday as an alternate plan to cap emissions went before a House committee. Last fall, the



Ehrlich

governor announced rule changes he said would dramatically reduce emissions of three pollutants from some coal-fired power plants. However, his plan did not address carbon dioxide emissions, suspected of contributing to global warming. Del. James Hubbard, a Democrat from Prince George's County who sponsored the bill, said Ehrlich's proposal is "kind of a day late and a dollar short and a little weak on substance." (AP)

ANNAPOLIS, MD.

Retail Trade Group Files Lawsuit Over Wal-Mart Bill

The Retail Industry Leaders Association filed suit Tuesday challenging a Maryland law designed to pressure Wal-Mart Stores Inc. to spend more money on health care for its employees. The law, the first of its kind in the nation, was enacted Jan. 12 when the Democraticcontrolled legislature overrode Republican Gov. Robert Ehrlich's veto. The law requires companies with more than 10,000 employees in Maryland to spend at least 8 percent of their payroll on health care or contribute the difference to the state Medicaid fund. (AP)

WOODBRIDGE, VA.

Investigators Looking Into Series of Pr. William Fires

There's concern in Prince William County that there may be a serial arsonist on the loose. Tuesday's Potomac News reported that fire investigators are looking into a series of fires in the Carolyn Forest and Rolling Brook sections of Woodbridge that began in November. (AP)



Do You Continue to Be Depressed?

The NIMH is conducting a study to test the effectiveness of AMPAkine in major depression. This study examines a different mechanism of action from commonly used antidepressants. Our hope is to find new medications for individuals who have not responded to past treatment.

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- Have taken an antidepressant that did not help

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The National Institute of Mental Health

National Institutes of Health, Department of Health & Human Services



www.bluntquestions.com

How can we trust the Bible when it seems inconsistent and paradoxical?

Sunday Sories Feb. 12 - Apr. 2 Are good people going to hell?



Why don't Christians act more like Jesus?



Does prayer work?

*(blunt) adj. raw, honest, direct

If God is perfect, why aren't we?

Why does God allow the destruction of innocent people?

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Money

GM Trims Dividends, Pay

Exec salaries, retiree health benefits cut in restructuring plan

DETROIT | General Motors Corp., under shareholder pressure to return to profitability, announced Tuesday that it is cutting in half its yearly dividend to \$1 a share and reducing the salaries of its chairman and senior leadership team.

The cut in its dividend will reduce GM's yearly cash payout by about \$565 million. The automaker also plans to cut health benefits for salaried retirees and evaluate ways to restructure its pension plan for salaried U.S. workers, reducing costs to balance out billions of dollars of



GM Chairman and CEO Rick Wagoner will take a 50 percent pay cut in the plan.

losses in its North American automaking operations.

"These are difficult decisions that involve sacrifices by our employees, stockholders, retirees and the senior leadership team," GM Chairman and CEO Rick Wagoner said in a statement.

As part of the changes, Wagoner will take a 50 percent pay cut. Vice Chairmen John Devine, Bob Lutz and Fritz Henderson will see their salaries reduced by 30 percent.

GM said it would cap its health care contributions for salaried retirees at 2006 levels. The change, which affects retirees hired before 1993, surviving spouses and eligible dependents, will reduce GM's annual health care expense by almost \$900 million before taxes, the company said.

The automaker also said it was evaluating ways to restructure its pension plan for salaried workers.

DAVID RUNK (AP)

In Brief

HOUSTON

Former Enron Exec Defends Claims on Earnings Scheme

Enron Corp.'s former investor-relations chief grew tense Tuesday when challenged about his testimony that suggested former CEO Jeffrey Skilling participated in schemes to hike earnings estimates or minimize how much revenue stemmed

from asset sales. In his fourth day of testimony in the fraud and conspiracy trial of Skilling and Enron founder Kenneth Lay, Mark Koenig reiterated his belief that top executives bent on meeting or beating Wall Street earnings expectations made or knew of overnight changes to estimates that he considered suspect. (AP)

SAN JOSE, CALIF. **Apple Unveils Cheaper iPod**

Apple Computer Inc. beefed up its

NASDAQ Stock Market

iPod product mix Tuesday with a new 1-gigabyte version of the nano and lower-priced shuffles. The pencil-thin, flash memory-based nano player now ranges from \$149 for the new 1GB model to \$249 for the 4GB model. Previously, the 2GB nano was the lowest-capacity and least expensive model at \$199. Apple also cut the prices of its bare-boned shuffle players. The 512-megabyte version dropped from \$99 to \$69 and the 1GB model was discounted from \$129 to \$99. (AP)

Market Action

New York Stock Exchange

Gainers				Gainers			
STOCK	LAST	DAILY Change	DAILY PERCENT CHANGE	STOCK	LAST	DAILY Change	DAILY Percent Change
CVtPS	20.48	+1.86	+10.0	LightPth	6.72	+2.68	+66.3
ResMed s	41.50	+3.45	+9.1	ChinaTDev	9.09	+2.81	+44.7
AIPC If	4.35	+.35	+8.8	Raindance	2.63	+.60	+29.6
YankCdl	27.90	+1.91	+7.3	CancerVax	3.12	+.64	+25.8
Disney	26.70	+1.74	+7.0	Duratek	21.29	+3.79	+21.7
Losers				Losers			
Prestige	11.01	-2.03	-15.6	Nestor n	3.95	-1.24	-23.9
PlaytxPd	11.75	-1.62	-12.1	UndArmr n	30.94	-8.26	-21.1
ParkDrl	10.73	-1.23	-10.3	Conexant	2.70	66	-19.6
CrwfdB	5.54	61	-9.9	HokuSci n	8.72	-1.74	-16.6
HarmonyG	16.90	-1.81	-9.7	AmDntls	11.49	-2.17	-15.9

Rates			Currency (Dollars in foreign currency)				
	CURRENT	PREVIOUS WEEK		TODAY	PREVIOUS DAY	YEAR AGO	
Prime Rate	7.50	7.50	British Pound	.5731	.5723	.5380	
Fed Funds close	4.50	4.50	Canadian Dollar	1.1532	1.1460	1.2556	
3-month disc	4.39	4.36	European Euro	.8355	.8358	.7825	
2-year	4.60	4.52	Japanese Yen	118.15	118.97	104.84	
10-year	4.57	4.52	Mexican Peso	10.5030	10.4450	11.1700	
30-year	4.66	4.68	Taiwanese Dollar	32.22	32.08	31.62	

DOW	NASDAQ	S&P 500
	4	
-48.51	-13.84	-10.24
-0.45	-0.61	-0.81
10749.76	2244.96	1254.78
10745.70	2244.30	1234.70

Media Stocks

STOCK	LAST	DAILY Change	YEAR TO DAT PERCENT CHAN
CBS B n	25.53	31	+.1
ClearChan	28.67	14	-8.8
Comcast	26.84	10	+3.5
Comc sp	26.83	11	+4.4
DirecTV	13.57	+.04	-3.9
Disney	26.70	+1.74	+11.4
Gannett	61.98	+1.11	+2.3
LibtyMA	8.26	02	+5.0
McGrwH s	51.65	11	
NewsCpA	15.72	14	+1.1
NewsCpB	16.63	06	+.1
Omnicom	82.13	-1.08	-3.5
Thomson	36.25	+.32	+4.8
TimeWarn	18.36	21	+5.3
ViacomB n	41.85	03	+1.7

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The interview will be no longer than 70 minutes and participants will receive \$50.

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Centers for Disease Control and Prevention National Center for Health Statistics

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Sports



FACE TIME: Steelers QB Ben Roethlisberger was sporting a new look at the championship parade Tuesday after he had his beard shaved by David Letterman on the talk show host's program Monday night. Roethlisberger kept a goatee.

Back at .500, Wiz Eye Fresh Start

Washington hopes to close first half of the season on strong note

WIZARDS | With Monday's win over the Orlando Magic, the Washington Wizards are no longer something they've been for the past two months: losers.

"We're back," point guard Gilbert Arenas said.

Back to where they started: .500. No more wins than losses. The slate wiped clean. And Washington players say they can take advantage of that starting-anew feeling that led to a 5-1 start to the season.

But this time, the team says, they've learned enough to keep it going.

"We want to get off to a start like we did at the beginning. This month, we need to get it rolling," Arenas said. "Once we get everything clicking and everything rolling, we're going to be one of those teams that just starts moving along."

Consider this: If the Wizards win out all their games until the All-Star break, they will only have

one more loss than they did at the All-Star break last year. With their next three games at home — includ-



Arenas

Warriors — it's not totally unthinkable.
"This team.

ing tonight's

match-up against

the Golden State

we have some-

where to go,"

Arenas said.

Of course, .500 in itself isn't cause for celebration. It's a precarious position, in which going

back to loser status is only one bad game away.

Coach Eddie Jordan downplayed the significance of finally breaking even — saying the Wizards (23-23) have loftier ambitions on their minds.

"Can we get to .600 now? I haven't put a lot of stock in that. It's good that we're moving up," Jordan said. "What we are in our last 20 games – I like that number a whole lot better. Because if we thought .500 was a goal, then there's not much else to achieve." CHRIS MINCHER (EXPRESS)

Swengali

SUPER BOWL | BY MATT SWENSON

Refs Shouldn't Get the Blame

ENOUGH TALK ABOUT the refs in the Super Bowl already.

The game's over. The better team won. End of story.

That is, except for the people who won't let the controversial calls go. All of a sudden, the Seahawks have plenty of supporters after going through two weeks of Super Bowl hype pretty much unnoticed.

Did Darrell Jackson push off on that touchdown pass? Probably not. Did Ben Roethlisberger cross the goal line on his scoring sneak? It's a close call.

Either way, there's no excuse for the way Seattle played in the biggest game of the year. They dropped passes, wasted easy opportunities and, in general, looked unprepared.

Maybe Holmgren should learn to run a two-minute drill better.

None of that seems to matter to Seattle coach Mike Holmgren, who fanned the flames Monday by saying: "We knew it was going to be tough going up against the Pittsburgh Steelers. I didn't know we were going to have to play the guys in the striped shirts as well."

Talk about a bad sport. Maybe Holmgren should learn to run a two-minute drill better before blaming someone else for costing his team the Super Bowl.

All I know is that Holmgren probably would have a second championship ring if he'd just given league MVP Shaun Alexander the ball more often on Sunday.

Deep down, the coach must know this. Just as we all know that referees rarely decide games — unless Duke's basketball team is involved.

Referees Defended By League

Montana denies cash dispute was reason he skipped Super Bowl

NFL | The NFL defended the officiating in the Super Bowl, and Joe Montana defended himself.

Two days after the Steelers beat the Seahawks 21-10 in the NFL title game, the league said Tuesday that the game was "properly officiated."

"Including, as in most NFL games, some tight plays that produced disagreement about the calls made by the officials," NFL spokesman Greg Aiello said in a statement.

Meanwhile, three-time Super Bowl MVP Montana denied reports he had asked for \$100,000 to appear with other past MVPs at pre-game ceremonies. He left Detroit on Friday, and returned home to attend his sons' weekend basketball games.

"I had told them both [sons] that I'd be there for their games and that we'd watch the Super Bowl together," Montana told ESPN. Later, Montana added, "The Super Bowl is important to a lot of people but, to me, it was more important that I was home with my boys."

DAVE GOLDBERG (AP)

SUPER BOWL | PITTSBURGH CELEBRATES CHAMPIONSHIP



 $\textbf{TITLE RUN}: Fans \, run \, with \, the \, Super \, Bowl \, Champion \, Steelers \, in \, downtown \, Pittsburgh \, during \, the \, team's \, welcome \, home \, parade \, Tuesday \, — \, two \, days \, after \, the \, Steelers \, beat \, the \, Seahawks \, for \, their \, first \, NFL \, championship \, in \, 26 \, years.$

In Brief

NFL

Bradway Out, Tannenbaum In as Jets' General Manager

Jets general manager Terry Bradway stepped down Tuesday in a surprising move, and will stay with the team as a consultant. Assistant general manager Mike Tannenbaum takes over for Bradway. It was Tannenbaum who pushed for the Jets to hire Eric Mangini as coach last month, and the two are close friends. It is believed he urged Bradway to make the decision to hire the 35-year-old coach. (AP)

DOPING

Conte, Jones Settle Suit

The convicted ringleader in the BALCO doping scandal settled a defamation lawsuit brought by track star Marion Jones over allegations that she used banned performance-enhancing drugs, a lawyer in the case said Tuesday. Jones settled her \$25 million suit in U.S. District Court here Monday against Victor Conte, who's serving a fourmonth prison term for his role in the steroid scandal. Terms of the deal were not disclosed. (AP)

Later: The UVa.-UMd. game and Caps-Panthers game ended after deadline. Results | Today's Post, Sports

Matt Swenson is the sports editor of Express. E-mail matt.swenson@readexpress.com



JB ON THE MOVE: James Brown, the D.C.-area native and host of the Fox pregame football show, is moving to CBS next year to host its program on Sundays. Prior to joining Fox, Brown was affiliated for CBS for 10 years both locally and nationally.

Sports

London Calling? Adu Staying in D.C. for Now

MLS, United dispute report that Chelsea is close to acquiring teen

UNITED | D.C. United and Major League Soccer on Tuesday denied a British newspaper report of a deal that would send 16-year-old Freddy Adu to English Premier League powerhouse Chelsea this year.

"We haven't had any discussions with any club about a transfer for Freddy," MLS deputy commissioner Ivan Gazidis said. "He plays for D.C. and will be playing for D.C. for the foreseeable future."

The Times of London reported that the Chelsea is in advance stages of negotiations with MLS, which holds Adu's rights, for a transfer fee of about \$8.7 million.

Adu has often stated that Chelsea is his favorite team and that his dream is to play in Europe, but international rules under soccer's world governing body, FIFA, make



Freddy Adu will stay with D.C. United for the "foreseeable future." MLS says.

it extremely difficult for a player to transfer overseas until he is 18. Adu will turn 18 in June 2007.

"Freddy Adu is a member of D.C. United, and we expect him to remain so through the 2007 season," United president Kevin Payne said. "Freddy knows the task before him this year is to continue to improve and become a game-in, game-out contributor to the success of D.C. United." (AP)

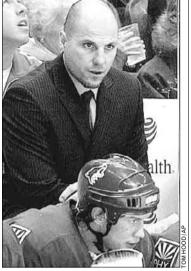
Gambling Scandal in NHL

Gretzky's wife, Coyotes assistant Tocchet tied to major betting ring

EWING, N.J. | Wayne Gretzky's wife and about a half-dozen NHL players placed bets — but not on hockey with a nationwide sports gambling ring financed by Phoenix Covotes assistant coach Rick Tocchet, authorities said Tuesday.

Gretzky is in his first season coaching the Coyotes and is a part-owner of the team.

His actress wife, Janet Jones, was among those implicated, two law enforcement officials told The Associated Press, speaking on condition of anonymity.



Rick Tocchet is charged with financing a major gambling ring out of New Jersey.

State police Col. Rick Fuentes said an investigation into the New Jersey-based ring discovered the processing of more than 1,000 wagers, exceeding \$1.7 million, on professional and college sports, mostly football and basketball.

Tocchet was served with a criminal complaint Monday and was expected to travel from his Arizona home to answer charges of promoting gambling, money laundering and conspiracy, Fuentes said. "It's not a hockey-related issue, it's a football thing. And at this time I can't comment any further," Tocchet said.

Gretzky said Tocchet would be on the bench for Tuesday night's home game but did not comment about his wife. Chris Newmarker (AP)

4 Days Later, Davis Joins Raptors

NBA | Antonio Davis reluctantly reported to the Toronto Raptors on Tuesday, saying he needed four days to clear his head.

deal that sent Jalen Rose, a firstround draft pick and cash to the New York Knicks.

There had been speculation that Davis was acquired Friday in a Davis, who was traded by the Raptors in 2003, wouldn't play in Toronto, instead retiring or asking the Raptors to trade him to a playoff contender or buy him out of his contract.

"It's not that bad," Davis said after practice. "I'm still doing something I love to do." (AP)

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Sports

The age of American curler Scott Baird, who will set an Olympic record as the oldest athlete to ever compete in the Winter Games. The previous record-holder was German skeleton slider James Coates, who was 53 years, 328 days old.

Weir Seeks Comfort Level in Turin

Eccentric U.S. skater continues to live up to outspoken reputation

OLYMPICS | Johnny Weir brought his candor — and his particular need for creature comforts — to the Winter Olympics.

"I am very princessy as far as travel is concerned and having a nice room and things like that. Sorry to say 'princessy," he added, laughing, "but that's what we do."

Known for his outspoken manner, the three-time U.S. men's champion isn't afraid to say the Olympic Village "is not very comfortable."

"It's a little dusty, very underdecorated, the beds aren't very soft," Weir said Tuesday, "but I'm enjoying it!"

Weir wasn't complaining, per se

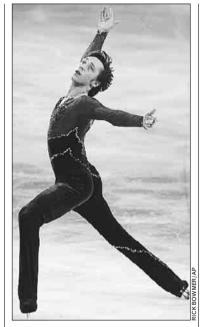
- just being himself.

Outlandish remarks are not unusual for Weir, who describes himself as a "wild card" for a medal but is more likely to be left in the dust next week by Russia's Evgeni Plushenko.

Weir, 21, got into trouble with U.S. Figure Skating officials last month when he described the tempo of a competitor's short program as "a vodka-shot, let's-snort-coke kind of thing." He's also previously described his costumes to "an icicle on coke" and "a Care Bear on acid."

But he refuses to bow to any sort of self-censorship. "I think people are definitely very wary of what's going to come out of my mouth and they're very worried about the kind of image I'm portraying for figure skating, as far as I've heard," he said. "That's cool. People should stay scared."

With flamboyant costumes to



American Johnny Weir is as famous for his words as he is for his skating.

"Before the Look-At-Me Winter Games begin, I have to admit: Johnny Weir appeals to me much more than Bode Miller"

Mike Wise, who's already sick of skiier Bode Miller | Today in Sports

(I) The Washington Post

match his outrageous words, Weir said he draws his inspiration for eccentricity from his mother, who encouraged him to be his own person.

"I know even if I make everyone angry and say things that nobody likes, my mom will still support what I said because I said it," he said. "She thinks it's funny when I say crazy things in the media. She doesn't take it that seriously." BRIAN FRIEDMAN (AP)



McDonald's used the backdrop of the Olympics to introduce new packaging.

McDonald's Rolls **Out Packaging At Turin Games**

OLYMPICS | In a public relations move with Super-sized irony. McDonald's rolled out its muchhyped "packaging with nutritional information" on Tuesday at — of all places — the Winter Games.

And with endorsement appearances by speedskating gold medalist Dan Jansen and Italian Stefania Belmondo, a cross-country skier who possesses one silver medal and one bronze. Neither said how often they eat at McDonald's, or much of anything at all.

The "packaging with nutritional information program" is the chain's latest effort to add healthy-sounding sound bytes to its menu. Beginning Tuesday in Turin, and later this month in the U.S., food boxes and wrappers will carry icons and numbers (but no written words) showing calories, protein, fat, carbs and salt content. (AP)

NBA (7 P.M. ON CSN) The Washington Wizards try to move above .500 for the first time in months when facing the Golden State Warriors.

NBA (9:30 P.M. ON ESPN2) The Denver Nuggets take on the Chicago Bulls.

COLLEGE HOOPS (7 P.M. ON ESPN) Struggling Indiana and Wisconsin could both use Bia 10.

COLLEGE HOOPS (7:30 P.M. ON ESPN CLASSIC) Rutgers visits Notre Dame.

COLLEGE HOOPS (7:30 P.M. ON ESPN2) No. 17 Boston College visits disappointing Wake Forest.

COLLEGE HOOPS (9 P.M. ON ESPN) A marquee matchup in the Big East between

Ski Jumpers Out of Games After Fall

OLYMPICS | Two members of the Italian ski jumping team are out of the Turin Olympics after falling during training.

Marco Beltrame and Stefano Chiapolino were injured in separate falls while attempting landings Monday at Predazzo in Val

Beltrame's injuries didn't appear to be serious at first, but he fainted before dinner Monday night and was taken to the hospital, where his spleen was removed. The injury wasn't thought to be career-threatening. Chiapolino broke his nose and needed stitches after getting cuts on his face. (AP)

a win to improve their standings in the Syracuse and No. 1 Connecticut. di Fiemme. DUR NEW TO SAVEMON

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TURNING POINT: OnStar this week announced automated turn-by-turn navigation in select 2006 vehicles, and nearly all 2007 vehicles. That means the directions will be downloaded to the car instead of verbally given by a representative.

Cars

What Every Man Should Drive

Anything but the new BMW 325xi wagon isn't quite as eligible

According to a lot of trashy primetime TV, young men are not getting a fit and proper education in the art of manhood, instead emerging from sebaceous adolescence unschooled in matters of taste, style and decorum. Which totally blows.

In the spirit of Esquire magazine's "Things Every Man Should Know" series, let me enlighten you. An all-wheel-drive European sports wagon is the perfect car for a fashionable young man. A night on the town, a month of resort-hopping in the Canadian Rockies, it matters not. This is the sort of car you should own before you are 30, along with an Andiamo suitcase, a great set of cookware and a tailored tux. Gentlemen do not rent clothes.

It's important to read cars as women read them, as the material adjuncts of a man's inner life. Sports cars are needy, trucks are desperate,



If this doesn't look like the car you think an elegant young man should be cruising the highways in, your car is probably sending the wrong signal about your identity.

boxy crossovers and active-lifestyle SUVs scream "focus-group patsy" - women sense these things with an atavism that is a marvel to behold. A sports wagon, by contrast, convevs an effortless and consolidated sense of self, a worldliness and maturity. You are more than just available; you're eligible.

Speaking of maturity: When you invite women over to your apartment, hide the Xbox.

You have a few choices in the European sports wagon department. But for the simple, syrupy

2006 BMW 325XI WAGON

- → POWERTRAIN: 2.5-liter inline six-cylinder engine, 24-valve DOHC, variable-valve timing and lift, variable induction; sixspeed manual transmission; allwheel drive
- → WHEELBASE: 108.7 inches
- → LENGTH: 178.2 inches
- → WEIGHT: 3,781 pounds
- → HORSEPOWER: 215 at 6.250 rpm
- → **TORQUE**: 185 at 2,750 rpm
- → 0-60 MPH: 6.3 seconds
- → PRICE: \$40,840

perfection of a well-stroked piece of machinery, you can do no better than the BMW 325xi wagon, in the mid-\$30s. Classic, impeccable, enviable - an entire wardrobe of cars in one package.

This engine is almost too fine a place for the dirty business of internal combustion. The block is a composite aluminum-magnesium casting. On top of the engine is variable-geometry induction. Smooth? Championship bowling balls don't get this kind of polish.

The purpose behind all these devices is to precisely modulate pumping volumes across a wide range of engine speed to maximize torque and efficiency and minimize emissions. It's complicated, but the result is simple: a linear, compressive, virtually hydraulic surge of power from just about any point on the tachometer and any gear.

For now, the BMW Sport Wagon is like a great black suit and Hermes tie: always right. Gentlemen, start your weekends. DAN NEIL (LOS ANGELES TIMES)



LIVE ONLINE

Car Care

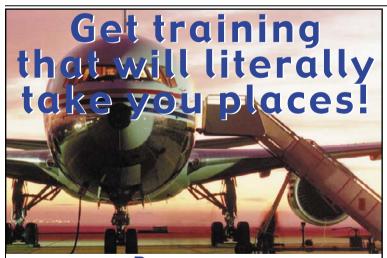
Automotive expert PAT GOSS owns Pat Goss Car World, Inc., a local car repair company. He chats monthly on washingtonpost.com/cars.

The turn-signal indicator on my dash board is obscured by the steering wheel when I adjust my seat to reach the pedals. I often depend on the audio signal to remind me the turn signal is still on. Do auto stores sell devices with louder audio signals for particular makes and models, or must the audio signal loudness for car's make and model be compatible with the electrical system?

Depending on year, make and model, there are loud signal flashers available. They do not fit all cars. Most parts stores do not stock them. as most people want quieter, not louder, signals.

I'm looking at buying either the 2006 Audi A6 or the 2006 Lexus IS350. Which do you think has the edge in performance?

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A MILLION MORE LIES: Meanwhile, the other literary scandal about a faked-up hard-times memoir comes to an anticlimax as it is revealed what everyone already knew: "J.T. LeRoy," selfproclaimed hustler and addict, is actually 40-year-old author/hoax perpetrator Laura Albert.



Entertainment

Olympics vs. The Nets

When NBC goes to Turin, other stations will scramble for eyes

RATINGS | One of the most exciting television battles during the next few weeks may be between Paula Abdul and Michelle Kwan, or another darling of the Winter Olympics.

The Olympics, which open Friday from Turin, Italy on NBC, is a TV event that traditionally flattens opponents for the network that spent millions of dollars for the right to broadcast it. Other networks can either try to attract viewers not interested in ice dancing or give way and essentially close up shop.

But judging by its startling staying power, "American Idol" may steal the spotlight from the skiers and skaters.

"I think 'American Idol' wins, except during the finals of the figure skating, if the U.S. is doing well or if there's some major scandal," said Steve Sternberg, an analyst for the ad buying firm Magna Global.

The Olympics are still going to be a major TV event, but Sternberg predicts its ratings will be between 15 to 20 percent below the 2002 Olympics in Salt Lake City. Rather than cannibalize each other's audi-

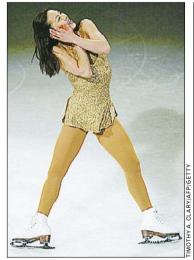


FOX'S 800-POUND GORILLA: It remains to be seen whether the Winter Olympics can outscore season five of "American Idol."

ences, the Olympics and "Idol" are going to bring more people to television, or take viewers away from cable stations.

That's partly what Fox was thinking in deciding to stick primarily with its regular schedule. It will air only a handful of reruns and specials, including four straight episodes of the soon-to-be-canceled "Arrested Development" on

"The overwhelming number of people who are watching the Olympics don't watch Fox,' Beckman said. "For us to run away from it is goofy."



The network likely to be most | Ice skating is sure to be an NBC draw.

affected by the Olympics is CBS, which will avoid showing fresh episodes of most of its series while the games are on.

ABC will air a rerun of the "Lost" pilot instead of a new episode of the popular drama.

"You know what? There are certain programming combinations that you don't want to go up against," said Jeff Bader, head of scheduling for ABC. Scheduling against the Olympics allows for a little flexibility, he said.

"If there are three Americans in contention for the gold medal in figure skating, we can change our minds," he said. David Bauder (AP)



WASHINGTONPOST.COM/ENTERTAINMENT



Fred Barnes claims President Bush created a new kind of conservatism.

Fred Barnes: **Controversy Calling**

The Weekly Standard editor and Fox News pundit discusses his new book, "Rebel-in-Chief: Inside the Bold and Controversial Presidency of George W. Bush." In it, Barnes maintains that Bush's biggest ideas are entirely his own.

Borders, 18th & L streets NW 12:30 p.m., free; 202-466-4999. (Farragut North)

Hypocrisy: Playing Jaxx

Fans of Swedish death metal who crave a fix before the In ■ Flames show next week should head to Jaxx tonight for some Hypocrisy, a melodic trio whose lyrics frequently concern alien invasions.

Jaxx, 6355 Rolling Road, Springfield; 6 p.m., \$28, with Nile, Soilent Green, Raging Speedhorn, Decapitated; 703-569-5940.

Spy Museum: Cold Warrior

Werner I. Juretzko, a U.S. Army agent, was captured by the East German security service in the '50s and survived six years of torture. He speaks about the experience today.

International Spy Museum, 800 FSt. NW; 6:30 p.m., \$15; 202-393-7798. (Gallery Place-Chinatown)

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

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'24' to Make Film Leap? There aren't enough hours in a day for the

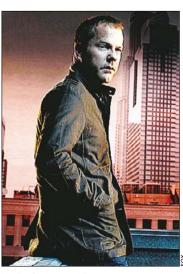
small-screen thriller

CROSSOVER | A "24" movie? Kiefer Sutherland even pondered the possibility before the press after his recent Screen Actors Guild Award win as best TV actor. But when he isn't high on victory, Sutherland looks at the prospect more logically, as he did during last month's TV critics' press tour.

"It's certainly something that I have expressed an incredible amount of interest in doing," he said — and something the producers have discussed making happen. "Any time they got really close to having a great idea for a film, we needed it for Episode 18," Sutherland said. "So there it went."

Not that a "24" film is out of reach, especially if Sutherland's Jack Bauer character were out of the TV picture. While the actor still believes "the character is growing on many levels" in this fifth season, Sutherland can foresee the day when the series goes on without him. If another leading man (or

woman) were to take over, Bauer could leap to the big screen in a '24' film that's completely separate from the show. "I think that would still be effective," he said. "It's something that I would be very eager to do. But it requires a lot of other people to feel the same way." DIANE WERTS (NEWSDAY)



Keifer Sutherland foresees a time when the show doesn't need his character.





DC CONSUMER PROTECTION WEEK February 6 – 10, 2006

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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This chart shows that if you borrow \$200 from a payday lender and pay it off in two months, you end up paying back \$140 on top of the \$200 that you borrowed. If you make the same loan from a pawnbroker or through a credit card, you pay back only a small fraction of that amount.

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BETTER IDEAS FOR "QUICK CASH"

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- If you use a payday lender, pay back as much as you can after two weeks, even if it's not the entire amount

Long-Term Fixes — Getting the Most Bang for Your Buck:

- If you need to borrow, get the lowest interest rate (APR)
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- Get overdraft protection on your checking account

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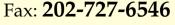
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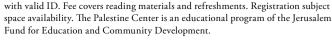
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WHEN A STRANGER CALLS (PG13) \(\times \) 1:00, 2:45, 3:30, 5:00, 5:45, 7:30, 8:15, 10:00

ANNAPOLIS (PG13) 2:30, 5:05, 7:45, 10:15 BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE 2 (PG13) 1:30, 3:00, 4:00, 5:30, 6:30,

BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE 2 (PG13) @ © 1:30, 4:00, 6:30,

9:00 THE MATADOR (R) 2:25, 5:10, 7:30, 10:10

THE MATADOR (R) 2:25, 5:10, 7:30, 10:10

NANNY MCPHEE (PG) 2:20, 5:15, 7:50, 10:20

END OF THE SPEAR (PG13) 4:25

MATCH POINT (R) 1:00, 4:10, 7:20, 10:20

THE NEW WORLD (PG13) 1:05, 4:20, 7:35, 10:30

UNDERWORLD: EVOLUTION (R) 2:15, 4:50, 7:40, 8:35, 10:15

GLORY ROAD (PG) 1:10, 4:05, 6:45, 9:35

HOODWINKED (PG) 2:15, 4:40, 6:55

LAST HOLIDAY (PG13) 1:25, 4:05, 6:50, 9:45

HOSTE (IR) 9:40 PM HOSTEL (R) 9:40 PM MUNICH (R) 1:05, 4:35 CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN 2 (PG) 1:10, 3:20, 5:55

CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN 2 (PG) 1:10, 3:20, 5:55 FUN WITH DICK & JANE (PG13) 9:50 PM BROKEBACK MOUNTAIN (R) 1:15, 4:15, 7:15, 10:25 THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA (PG) 1:20, 8:20 SYRIANA (R) 2:30

EYRIANA (R) 2:30 VALK THE LINE (PG13) 8:25 GOOD NIGHT, AND GOOD LUCK (PG) 5:50, 8:30 CAPOTE (R) 1:10, 4:00, 6:40

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NANNY MCPHEE (PG) 2:00, 4:40, 7:45 NANNY MCPHEE (PG) 2:00, 4:40, 7:45 UNDERWORLD: EVOLUTION (R) 5:20, 8:45 GLORY ROAD (PG) 4:50, 8:00 HOODWINKED (PG) 4:40, 7:45 HOODWINKED (PG) 4:40, 7:45 LAST HOLIDAY (PG13) 5:00, 8:15

AMC MAZZA GALLERIE

Jenifer and Wisconsin 202-537-9553

SOMETHING NEW (PG13) 2:20, 4:50, 7:15, 9:40 BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE 2 (PG13) 2:15, 4:40, 7:20, 9:45 NANNY MCPHEE (PG) 2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30 MATCH POINT (R) 2:45, 5:35, 8:30 GLORY ROAD (PG) 2:05, 4:45, 7:25, 10:05 LAST HOLIDAY (PG13) 2:30, 5:00, 7:40, 10:15 WALK THE LINE (PG13) 2:10, 5:10, 8:15 /ALK THE LINE (PG13) ■ © 2:10, 5:10, 8:15

LOEWS GEORGETOWN 14 3111 K Street, N.W. 202-342-6441 821

SOMETHING NEW (PG13) \(\square\) 2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30

WHEN A STRANGER CALLS (PG13) \(\sqrta \) 12:30, 2:50, 5:10,

7:30, 9:50

ANNAPOLIS (PG13) 1:55, 4:25, 7:10, 9:40

ANNAPOLIS (PG13) 1:55, 4:25, 7:10, 9:40

BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE 2 (PG13) 1:2:20, 2:45, 5:25, 8:00, 10:2:

THE MATADOR (R) 1:2:10, 2:35, 4:55, 7:15, 9:45

NANNY MCPHEE (PG) 1:20, 2:30, 5:00, 7:35, 9:55

NANNY MCPHEE (PG) 1:20, 2:30, 5:00, 5:00, 7:35, 9:55

LOOKING FOR COMEDY IN THE MUSLIM

WORLD (PG13) 4:35, 10:45

MATCH POINT (R) 1:30, 4:20, 7:20, 10:20

THE NEW WORLD (PG13) 1:20, 4:15, 7:45, 10:45

UNDERWORLD; EVOLUTION (R) 1:45, 4:15, 10:05

GLORY ROAD (PG) 2:25, 5:05, 7:55, 10:55

MUNICH (R) 1:200, 3:30, 7:55, 10:35

MUNICH (R) 12:00, 3:30, 7:05, 10:30 MEMOIRS OF A GEISHA (PG13) 1:00, 4:10, 7:15, 10:20 SYRIANA (R) 1:45, 7:55 WALK THE LINE (PG13) 1:40, 4:40, 7:40, 10:40

LOEWS WISCONSIN AVE. 6 4000 Wisconsin Avenue, N.W.

WHEN A STRANGER CALLS (PG13) ✓ 2:10, 4:30, 7:00, 9:10
ANNAPOLIS (PG13) 2:00, 4:20, 7:00, 9:30
MUNICH (R) 1:30, 8:20
MEMOIRS OF A GEISHA (PG13) 5:00
BROKEBACK MOUNTAIN (R) 2:50, 6:20, 9:20
KING KONG (PG13) 2:30, 7:10
THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA (PG) 1:40, 5:00, 8:10
THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA (PG) 回到 1:40, 5:00, 8:10

LOEWS WHITE FLINT 5 North Bethesda

310-423-1014 741 MRS. HENDERSON PRESENTS (R) 2:05, 4:30, 7:00, 9:45

MUNICH (R) 2:00, 6:00, 9:30 MEMOIRS OF A GEISHA (PG13) 2:30, 6:20, 9:25 BROKEBACK MOUNTAIN (R) 2:45, 6:20, 9:25 WALK THE LINE (PG13) 2:15, 6:15, 9:40

AMC POTOMAC MILLS 18

SOMETHING NEW (PG13) ✓ 1:50, 5:05, 7:30, 9:50 WHEN A STRANGER CALLS (PG13) ✓ 1:20, 2:25, 3:30,

4:35, 5:45, 7:00, 8:15, 9:15 ANNAPOLIS (PG13) 2:00, 4:40, 7:05, 9:25 BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE 2 (PG13) 1:25, 2:30, 4:00, 5:25, 7:15, 8:05, 9:40 THE MATADOR (R) 2:05, 5:20, 7:45, 9:55

NANNY MCPHEE (PG) 1:35, 5:00, 7:20, 9:35
THE NEW WORLD (PG13) 1:30, 4:20, 7:10, 10:00
UNDERWORLD: EVOLUTION (R) 2:10, 5:10, 7:40, 10:00
UNDERWORLD: EVOLUTION (R) 2:10 E 2:10, 5:10, 7:40,

10:00
GLORY ROAD (PG) 1:25, 4:10, 7:00, 9:30
HOODWINKED (PG) 1:45, 5:15, 7:15, 9:20
LAST HOLIDAY (PG13) 2:15, 4:50, 7:25, 9:55
TRISTAN & ISOLDE (PG13) 8:00
MUNICH (R) 1:15, 4:30
MEMOIRS OF A GEISHA (PG13) 2:20
FUN WITH DICK & JANE (PG13) 5:25, 7:35, 9:45
BROKEBACK MOUNTAIN (R) 1:40, 4:30, 7:20, 10:00
THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA (PG) 1:30, 5:00, 7:55
SYRIAMA (D) 1:55

AMC RIVERTOWNE 12 Exit 4A I-95, 1/2 mi. on Oxon Hill Rd. 703-998-4AMC

SOMETHING NEW (PG13) 4:10, 7:50 WHEN A STRANGER CALLS (PG13) 4:00, 8:00 BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE 2 (PG13) 4:20, 5:20, 7:00, 8:20 UNDERWORLD: EVOLUTION (R) 5:00, 8:00

GLORY ROAD (PG) 4:40, 7:40 HOODWINKED (PG) 4:00, 5:50, 8:00 AST HOLIDAY (PG13) 4:50, 7:30

LAST HOLIDAY (PGT3) 4:50, 7:30
CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN 2 (PG) 5:10
CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN 2 (PG) 5:10
FUN WITH DICK & JANE (PG13) 7:50
BROKEBACK MOUNTAIN (R) 4:00, 7:40
THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA (PG) 4:30, 8:10
SYRIANA (R) 4:40

AMC UNION STATION 9 Located at Union Station 703-998-4AMC

SOMETHING NEW (PG13) 1:00, 3:50, 7:50
WHEN A STRANGER CALLS (PG13) 2:00, 5:00, 8:10
ANNAPOLIS (PG13) 1:25, 3:55, 7:40
BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE 2 (PG13) 1:30, 4:00, 5:15, 7:30, 8:00
BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE 2 (PG13) □ ☑ 1:30, 4:00, 7:30 NANNY MCPHEE (PG) 2:15, 5:10, 7:50 UNDERWORLD: EVOLUTION (R) 3:00, 5:30, 8:05 HOODWINKED (PG) 1:10, 3:30, 5:45, 8:00 LAST HOLIDAY (PG13) 1:15, 4:15, 7:55

AMC COUNTRY CLUB MALL 6 Country Club Mall on Vocke Rd near Route 68.

703-998-4AMC

WHEN A STRANGER CALLS (PG13) ✓ 5:30, 8:00 ANNAPOLIS (PG13) ✓ 5:15, 8:15 BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE 2 (PG13) ✓ 5:15, 7:45 NANNY MCPHEE (PG) ✓ 5:00, 7:45 NANNY MCPHEE (PG) ✓ 5:00, 7:45 UNDERWORLD: EVOLUTION (R) 5:30, 8:15

SOMETHING NEW (PG13) 3:25, 5:50, 8:20, 10:50 WHEN A STRANGER CALLS (PG13) 1:10, 2:10, 3:40, 4:40, 6:10, 7:10, 8:40, 9:40 ANNAPOLIS (PG13) 1:30, 4:00, 6:30, 9:00

BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE 2 (PG13) 1:00, 2:00, 3:00, 3:30, 4:30, 5:30, 6:05, 7:05, 8:00, 8:30, 9:30, 10:30, 11:00 DOWN, 7109, 8209, 830, 933, 1033, 1130, 11400
UNDERWORLD: EVOLUTION (R) 1:50, 4:20, 6:50, 9:25
GLORY ROAD (PG) 1:40, 4:10, 7:00, 9:50
HOODWINKED (PG) 1:45, 3:45, 5:45, 7:45, 9:45
LAST HOLIDAY (PG13) 1:25, 4:25, 7:25, 10:25
HOSTEL (R) 1:20, 5:20, 9:20
FUN WITH DICK & JANE (PG13) 3:20, 7:20

LOEWS SHIRLINGTON 7 2772 South Randolph

703-671-0910 801

MRS. HENDERSON PRESENTS (R) 12:40, 3:10, 5:30, 7:50.

10:10
LOOKING FOR COMEDY IN THE MUSLIM WORLD (PG13) 1:10, 6:50
MATCH POINT (R) 1:20, 4:20, 7:10, 9:50
CACHE (R) 1:200, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00
MEMOIRS OF A GEISHA (PG13) 9:10 PM MEMORIS OF A CELSTRI (PC 19.3) 9.10740 BROKEBACK MOUNTAIN (R) 12:30, 3:20, 6:40, 9:30 SYRIANA (R) 3:50, 9:40 GOOD NIGHT, AND GOOD LUCK (PG) 1:50, 4:00, 7:00, 9:20 CAPOTE (R) 12:50, 3:40, 6:30

LOEWS DUPONT 5 1350 19th St. 202-872-9555 711

MRS. HENDERSON PRESENTS (R) 2:10, 4:40, 7:10 IMAGINE ME AND YOU (R) \(\sigma \) 2:20, 4:50, 7:20 BROKEBACK MOUNTAIN (R) 1:30, 2:30, 4:30, 5:30, 7:30, 8:30 CAPOTE (R) 1:45, 4:20, 7:00

AMC TYSONS CORNER 16

SOMETHING NEW (PG13) ✓ 12:05, 2:35, 5:20, 7:50, 10:20 WHEN A STRANGER CALLS (PG13) ✓ 1:00, 3:20, 5:55,

8:10, 10:25
ANNAPOLIS (PG13) 12:10, 2:50, 5:30, 8:00, 10:30
BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE 2 (PG13) 12:25, 3:00, 5:25, 7:55, 10:20
BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE 2 (PG13)

© 21:25, 3:00, 5:25, 7:55, 10:20

/:bs, 10:20 THE MATADOR (R) 1:55, 4:30, 7:15, 9:45 NANNY MCPHEE (PG) 12:15, 2:45, 5:15, 7:45, 10:15 THE NEW WORLD (PG13) 12:55, 4:05, 7:10, 10:10 UNIDERWORLD: EVOLUTION (R) 12:20, 3:05, 5:35, 8:05,

10.35 GLORY ROAD (PG) 1:30, 4:20, 7:35, 10:30 HOODWINKED (PG) 12:00, 2:20, 4:40, 7:05, 9:25 LAST HOLIDAY (PG13) 1:40, 4:35, 7:25, 10:05 LAST HOLIDAY (PG13) 1:40, 4:35, 4:20, 7:25, 10:35 FUN WITH DICK & JANE (PG13) 1:45, 4:25, 7:00, 9:15 BROKEBACK MOUNTAIN (R) 1:10, 4:15, 7:20, 10:25 KING KONG (PG13) 1:05, 5:00, 9:00

THE CHRONICI ES OF NARNIA (PG) 12:30, 3:40, 7:00, 10:10. AMC COLUMBIA MALL 14

10300 Patuxent Parkway 410-423-0520

SOMETHING NEW (PG13) 12:00, 2:25, 5:00, 7:40, 10:20 WHEN A STRANGER CALLS (PG13) 12:05, 2:20, 4:45, 7:10,

9.35 ANNAPOLIS (PG13) 12:10, 2:30, 5:10, 7:45, 10:15 BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE 2 (PG13) 12:00, 2:15, 4:50, 7:25, 10:00 NANNY MCPHEE (PG) 12:20, 2:55, 5:25, 8:00, 10:20 MATCH POINT (R) 2:15, 5:20, 8:15 THE NEW WORLD (PG13) 12:35, 3:45, 6:50, 9:55

THE NEW WORLD (PG 13) 12:30, 3:40, 0:30, 9:30
UNDERWORLD: EVOLUTION (R) 1:40, 4:15, 7:00, 9:40
UNDERWORLD: EVOLUTION (R) □ 1:40, 4:15, 7:00, 9:40
GLORY ROAD (PG) 2:10, 5:05, 7:50, 10:25
HOODWINKED (PG) 1:20, 3:35, 5:45, 8:10, 10:25
LAST HOLIDAY (PG13) 1:50, 4:35, 7:20, 10:10
MEMOIRS OF A GEISHA (PG13) 2:50
FUN WITH DICK & JANE (PG13) 5:30, 10:30
BROKEBACK MOUNTAIN (R) 12:25, 3:30, 6:40, 9:50
THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA (PG) 1:10, 4:20, 7:30, 10:30
CAPOTE (R) 7:50

AMC COURTHOUSE PLAZA 8 Courthouse and Birch Rd. 703-998-4AMC

SOMETHING NEW (PG13) \(\sigma \):20,5:10,7:50 ANNAPOLIS (PG13) 3:10,5:50,8:20 BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE 2 (PG13) 2:40,5:00,7:40 UNDERWORLD: EVOLUTION (R) 2:50,5:15,8:00 HOODWINKED (PG) 3:00, 5:20, 7:30

MUNICH (R) 5:05, 8:30 MEMOIRS OF A GEISHA (PG13) 2:00 THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA (PG) 2:30, 5:30, 8:25 GOOD NIGHT, AND GOOD LUCK (PG) 2:10, 5:25, 8:10

AMC ACADEMY 8 Beltway Plaza on Greenbelt Rd., Center Court 703-998-4AMC

COS-930-2-4AWC
**SOMETHING NEW (PG13) ✓ 5:30, 8:10
**WHEN A STRANGER CALLS (PG13) ✓ 5:40, 8:00
**ANNAPOLIS (PG13) 5:50, 7:40
**BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE 2 (PG13) 5:20, 8:00
**NANNY MCPHEE (PG) 4:30, 7:10
**UNDERWORLD: EVOLUTION (R) 5:10, 7:50
**HOODWINKED (PG) 4:40, 7:00
**LAST HOLIDAY (PG13) 4:50, 7:30

LOEWS WHEATON PLAZA 11 Viers Mill Rd. Btwn. Georgia & University 901-949-9202 746

SOMETHING NEW (PG13) / 4:15, 7:15, 9:40 WHEN A STRANGER CALLS (PG13) / 4:45, 7:35, 10:15 WHEN A STRANGER CALLS (PG13) ✓ 445, 7:35, 10
ANNAPOLIS (PG13) ✓ 5:04, 8:00, 10:20
BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE 2 (PG13) ✓ 4:30, 7:30, 10:00
NANNY MCPHEE (PG) ✓ 4:10, 7:00, 9:30
NANNY MCPHEE (PG) ED ✓ 4:10, 7:00, 9:30
UNDERWORLD: EVOLUTION (R) 5:00, 7:45, 10:10
GLORY ROAD (PG) 5:10, 7:50, 10:20
HOODWINKED (PG) 4:20, 7:10, 9:10
LAST HOLIDAY (PG13) 4:40, 7:20, 9:50
FUN WITH DICK & JANE (PG13) 5:30, 7:40, 9:45
BROKEBACK MOUNTAIN (R) 4:00, 7:00, 9:50

LOEWS FAIRFAX SQUARE 8 8065 Leesburg Pike 703-506-9857 802

MRS. HENDERSON PRESENTS (R) 3:20, 7:10, 9:50
MATCH POINT (R) 3:30, 6:50, 9:40
TRANSAMERICA (R) 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 9:55
MUNICH (R) 4:40, 8:30
SYRIANA (R) 6:30

PARADISE NOW (PG13) 3:40, 9:35
WALK THE LINE (PG13) 3:00, 6:20, 9:10
GOOD NIGHT, AND GOOD LUCK (PG) 2:40, 4:50, 7:00,

LOEWS UPTOWN 1 3426 Connecticut Avenue N.W. 202-966-5400 713

GOOD NIGHT, AND GOOD LUCK (PG) 2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30

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OVER & OUT: Bravo to Bravo for launching a broadband channel targeting a gay and lesbian audience. OutzoneTV.com will carry content based around shows such as "Queer Eye for the Straight Guy" and "Gay Weddings," as well as blogs and other interactive features.

Entertainment

Fresh and Full of Life

Dave Grohl makes Virginia proud with multiple Grammy nods

AWARDS | Dave Grohl's Foo Fighters, once described by bassist Nate Mendel as an "accidental" band, now have 10 years under their belt, are playing bigger shows than ever and are up for five Grammys for their 2-disc opus, "In Your Honor."

Tonight, the band will have a chance to add to its previously earned four Grammy awards, with nominations including best rock album, best rock song ("Best of You") and best pop collaboration (for the duet with Norah Jones).

Is the nomination you're most pumped for the best surroundsound album one?

That is the one that we're the most excited about ... That just reeks of Pink Floyd or something like

You're also up against Neil Young, U2, the Rolling Stones ...

Dude, the competition is stiff. I didn't even know who else was in our category ... We're clearly the underdog.

You played drums for Nirvana and Queens for the Stone Age. Do you consider vourself a drummer first? Kind of, yeah. It's not my first



BIG THEM: When not dodging Mentos, the Foo Fighters are earning lavish praise.

instrument, but it's the one I'm most connected to ... But when I'm hanging out with six or seven drummers, it's like they don't consider me one of them, because I'm the singer of the Foo Fighters. There's a whole drummer thing that's like "Highlander" - when two Highlanders are in the same room with each other, they just know. That's kind of what happens with drummers, but not with me

Is it true you guys don't play "Big Me" anymore because crowds throw Mentos at you?

We did stop playing that song for a while because, honestly, it's like being stoned. Those little ... things are like pebbles — they hurt.

In some sense, that reaction is something to be proud of.

Yeah, but I wish they were like marshmallows or something. JAKE COYLE (AP)

HEN A STRANGER CALLS (PG-13) DIG (300 525) 1010

IG MOMMA'S HOUSE 2 (PG-13) DIG (1155 NDERWORLD EVOLUTION (R) - ID REQ'D DIG

(1220 240 540) 800 1020 (1215 340) 705 1030 (1240 330) 640 945 (1250 410) 725

Adv. Tix on Sale SECOND CHANCE (PG-13) ★
Adv. Tix on Sale ROLLING STONES (NR) ★
WHEN A STRANGER CALLS (PG-13) DIG (1230 250 510) 735 1015
NANNY MCPHEE (PG) DIG
THE NEW WORLD (PG-13) DIG (1210 305) 725 1025 MATADOR (R) - ID REQ'D DIG (200 445) 740 100 FUN WITH DICK AND JANE (PG-13) DIG (1215) 655
BROKEBACK MOUNTAIN (R) - ID REQ'D DIG(205 505 515) 810 930
KING KONG (PG-13) DIG (110)
SYRIANA (R) - ID REQ'D DIG (320) 955

HEN A STRANGER CALLS (PG-13) DIG (215 400 455) 655 745 920 1 SOMETHING NEW (PG-13) DIG (105 205 345 445) 650 750 925 1 SIG MOMMA'S HOUSE 2 (PG-13) DIG (100 200 340 440) 645 74 930 1030 3ROKEBACK MOUNTAIN (R) - ID REQ'D DIG (110 420) 730 1040 JNDERWORLD EVOLUTION (R) - ID REQ'D DIG (120 405) 705 955 (120 405) 705 95:

MAGINE ME & YOU (R) - ID REQ'D DIG IRS. HENDERSON PRESENTS (R) - ID REQ'D DIG (120 350) 74

MATADOR (R) - ID REQ'D DIG

HEN A STRANGER CALLS (PG-13) DIG (1200 1230 220 250 440 510) 700 730 920 950 SOMETHING NEW (PG-13) DIG (1125 1155 200 230 430 500) 710 740 940 1010 ANNAPOLIS (PG-13) DIG (1205 240 515) 750 1030

JNDERWORLD EVOLUTION (R) - ID REQ'D DIG (155 425) 655 925 THE NEW WORLD (PG-13) DIG (105) 635 LAST HOLIDAY (PG-13) DÍG (1135 235 520) 800 1040

GLORY ROAD (PG) DIG HOSTEL (R) - ID REQ'D DIG MATADOR (R) - ID REQ'D DIG (125 415) 715 1005 (405) 935 (1145 225 455) 725 955 HOODWINKED (PG) DIG (1150 215 435) 645 900 MUNICH (R) - ID REQ'D DIG (1130 300) 640 1020

15980 Regal Plaza

CAPOTE (R) - ID REQ'D DIG (120 400) 710 955 GOOD NIGHT AND GOOD LUCK (PG) DIG BROKEBACK MOUNTAIN (R) - ID REQ'D DIG (1230 330) 640 940 MUNICH (R) - ID REQ'TD DIG (1205 3415) 815 SOMETHING NEW (PG-13) DIG (140 440) 730 1010 WHEN A STRANGER CALLS (PG-13) DIG (1150 1250 210 310 450

550) 740 840 1000 NNAPOLIS (PG-13) DIG (220 500) 745 1025 NANNY MCPHEE (PG) DIG (1140 130 230 410 530) 700 820 BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE 2 (PG-13) DIG (1210 150 250 430 540) 720

(100) 635 NDERWORLD EVOLUTION (R) - ID REQ'D DIG (245 520) 800 1030 VALK THE LINE (PG-13) DIG (1240 340) 645 945 MALK THE LINE (19-13) DIG GLORY ROAD (PG) DIG MATADOR (R) - ID REQ'D DIG HOODWINKED (PG) DIG FUN WITH DICK AND JANE (PG-13) DIG (1215 315) 630 910 (1155 300 545) 810 1030 (1145 200 420) 650 850 (345) 900 ING KONG (PG-13) DIG CHRONICLES OF NARNIA (PG) DIG (1220 320) 620 920

Adv. Tix on Sale ROLLING STONES (NR) + WHEN A STRANGER CALLS (PG-13) DIG (12) SOMETHING NEW (PG-13) DIG (1205 240 505) 735 1005 ANNAPOLIS (PG-13) DIG VANNY MCPHEE (PG) DIG (1250 430) 715 955 (1200 230 500) 740 1015 BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE 2 (PG-13) DIG (1200 225 455) 730 1000 UNDERWORLD EVOLUTION (R) - ID REQ'D DIG (1220 405) 725

LAST HOLIDAY (PG-13) (1240 400) 720 1010 LAST HOLIDAY (PG-13) (1246 300) 720 1010 (1245 350) 710 1010 (1245 350) 710 1010 (1245 350) 710 1010 (1245 350) 710 1010 (1255 355) 700 950 (1255 355) 700 950 (1255 355) 700 950 (1255 355) 700 950 (1255 365) 940 (125

POTOMAC YARD STADIUM 16 FAIRFAX TOWNE CENTER 10 3575 Jefferson Davis Hwy 800-FANDANGO 690# 4110 W Ox Road 800-FANDANGO 670#

4110 W Ox Road SOMETHING NEW (PG-13) DIG THE WORLD'S FASTEST INDIAN (PG-13) DIG WALK THE LINE (PG-13) DIG BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE 2 (PG-13) DIG (125 200 350 440) 645 730

HEN A STRANGER CALLS (PG-13) DIG (145 420) 730 1005 ND OF THE SPEAR (PG-13) DIG

ND OF THE SPEAR (PG-13) DIG (1200)
NDERWORLD EVOLUTION (R) - ID REQ'D DIG (1205 240 510) AST HOLIDAY (PG-13) DIG (1250 430) 740 1020 LAST HOLIDAY (PG-13) DIG GLOPY ROAD (PG) DIG (1245 345) 655 1005 MATADOR (R) - ID REO'D DIG (140 440) 750 1035 HOODWINKED (PG) DIG (1215 230 450) 700 930 BPOKEBACK MOUNTAIN (R) - ID REO'D DIG (115 415) 715 1020 CHRONICLES OF NARNIA (PG) DIG (1200 330) 700 1010 (300) 650 1000

9161 Commerce Ctr Dr

WHEN A STRANGER CALLS (PG-13) DIG (200 430) 745 1015 SOMETHING NEW (PG-13) DIG (130 415) 730 1005 MANAPOLIS (PG-13) DIG (130 415) 745 1016 VANNY MCPHEE (PG) DIG (100 345) 700 940 BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE 2 (PG-13) DIG (400 500) 1000 UNDERWORLD EVOLUTION (R) - ID REQ'D DIG (115 345) 715 850 UNDERWORLD EVOLUTIÓN (R) - ID REQ'D DIG (115 4545) 715 950
LAST HOLIDAY (PG-13) DIG (1245 330) 645 930
MATADOR (R) - ID REQ'D DIG (1245 315) 845 930
HOODWINKED (PG) DIG (1230 245 500) 815 1020
WINICH (R) - ID REQ'D DIG (1250 303) 700 1000
UNICH (R) - ID REQ'D DIG (1200 303) 700 1000
UNICH (R) - ID REQ'D DIG (145 445) 800
SOOD NIGHT AND GOOD LUCK (PG) DIG (145 443) 800 1020

END OF THE SPEAR (PG-13) DIG (1230 305)
UNDERWORLD EVOLUTION (R) - ID REQ'D DIG (1245 335) 750

LAST HOLIDAY (PG-13) DIG GLORY ROAD (PG) DIG MUNICH (R) - ID REO'D DIG HOODWINKED (PG) DIG FUN WITH DICK AND JANE (PG-13) DIG (1240 325) 640 925 (1125 255) 630 955 (1140 205 420) 720 930 (355) 935 BROKEBACK MOUNTAIN (R) - ID REQ'D DIG (1210 315) 700 1018 CHRONICLES OF NARNIA (PG) DIG (1155 310) 645 950

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Television



MONEY CHANGES NOTHING: The doomed WB continues to roll out new shows, including the reality series "Survival of the Richest," in which the well-off and the not-so compete in challenges for a cash prize, and "Modern Men," another single-guys-bonding comedy. Both debut in March.

They Got the Funk

It's not the same old song for the 48th Grammy Awards

MUTUAL APPRECIATION | Old-school talent and contemporary favorites meet on "The 48th Annual Grammy Awards" (8 p.m., CBS). Kelly Clarkson will make her Grammy debut. So will Paul McCartney.

The former Beatle has won 13 Grammy Awards but he has never sung on the show. As for Clarkson, she may owe her fame to her status as the first-ever winner of "American Idol," but her relationship with the talent showcase has



IN 'TOON: The animated band Gorillaz meets the Material Girl Madonna.

grown complicated of late as she has tried to distance herself from the Fox series. What better way than to go head to head with "Idol"?

Tonight's broadcast features a salute to Sly Stone, an influential artist whose work with Sly and the Family Stone presaged funk and disco of the '70s and whose songs "Stand," "Hot Fun in the Summertime," "Thank You (Falettinme Be Mice Elf Agin)" and "Family Affair" remain favorites to this day.

Tonight's other scheduled performers include Mariah Carey, John Legend, Madonna with Gorillaz, Bruce Springsteen, U2 and Mary J. Blige, Coldplay, Faith Hill and Keith Urban, Jamie Foxx with Kanye West and others. KEVIN MCDONOUGH (UNITED FEATURE SYNDICATE)

ON TV TONIGHT

SOMEBODY, PLEASE SING

AMERICAN IDOL (8 p.m., Fox) arrives in Los Angeles and not a moment too soon. The convocation of gold-ticket holders means that the painful, spiteful audition phase has been concluded and the ratio of bad performances to good will finally decline.

MAMBO MASTERS

AMERICA'S BALLROOM CHALLENGE (8 p.m., PBS) wraps up with 24 pairs competing in several categories, and the winner of each round enters a dance-off.

GENES AND BOOTS

AFRICAN AMERICAN LIVES (9 p.m., PBS) traces the histories of eight contemporary black Americans back to before the Civil War. It then uses DNA science to trace their roots back to West Africa.



PART OF HISTORY: Dr. Sara Lawrence-Lightfoot, center, explores her roots.

LOST ON 'MARS'?

The theft of school funds looms large on **VERONICA MARS** (9 p.m., UPN). Many observers believe this postmodern Nancy Drew drama is a natural to make the cut when the new CW network debuts. KEVIN MCDONOUGH (UNITED FEATURE SYNDICATE)

06	6:00 PM	6:30	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00	11:30
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The National Institute of Mental Health NINI

National Institutes of Health, Department of Health & Human Services National Institute

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www.nihb.org Accounting

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TRENDS, CULTURE, DISCOVERIES, IDEAS, PEOPLE

The Medal Gear, Solid

Apparel

Olympian outfits get a technological edge from material makers

When he hits Olympic slalom gates at about 50 mph, Erik Schlopy will have extra protection in his ski suit, courtesy of some bright orange, waffle-like padding that was first whipped up in a blender.

The material, sewn into Spyder racing suits, is designed to be flexible yet stiffen on impact to protect fragile elbows and shins as skiers roar down icy slopes.

"When you're racing and when you're training, you don't really feel that much until after — when you're looking at the bruises in the mirror," Schlopy said. "I'd have to say the new pads are definitely minimizing the bruises and the blows that we get."

Companies are spending millions on research and hiring engineers specializing in aerodynamics and other sciences in hopes of gaining a product edge. The payoff comes with publicity surrounding the Olympics, especially if the athlete is a medalist.

"If people who are wearing this product seem to be performing bet-

1hr Massage + Teddy Bear (at Body Co.) \$150 for couples, \$90 for one.

1hr Massage + 1 Dozen Roses (at Body Co.) \$200 for couples, \$130 for one.

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Bras, panties and teddies, oh my! | 33



Blog Log: The Council incites some rage |31

Britney, No! Babies need carseats! | 34



ALL DOWNHILL: Spyder's Phil Shettig says the new ski suits required much research.

ter, we're going to be seeing marketing like you've never seen before," said Marshal Cohen, chief analyst at NPD Group, a market research firm. "Anything that can help some-

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Mondays.

express

one get an edge or perform better, an athlete will go to the end of the earth to get it."

Some technology in apparel and equipment seems to boost performance, Cohen said, while other advancements perhaps give athletes a confidence boost.

And the technology that's tested is as broad and as wide as the imagination.

Speedo, for example, mimicked a shark's dermal denticles — essentially, skin with tiny teethlike features by weaving ribbing and texture into first a swimsuit and then a triathlon outfit for the Summer Olympics. The material, called Fastskin FSII, has been added to outfits for Olympic bobsled and skeleton athletes this winter to reduce drag yet maintain movement.

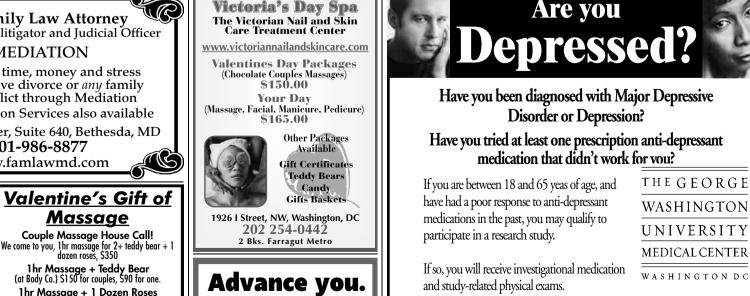
Each suit is adjusted to fit the specific athlete.

"It also allows them greater freedom of motion and greater flexibility than the traditional sliding suits of the past," said Stu Isaac, a marketing senior vice president with Speedo. Speedo suits will be worn by skeleton athletes from a handful of countries.

Part of the work in developing the Spyder suits involved testing by skiers to get the padding in just the right place.

"It was incredibly difficult to get these suits to work right for worldclass athletes," Phil Shettig, the company's director of product development, said. SANDY SHORE (AP)





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LOOK Voices



Baggage Check

ANDREA BONIOR, PH.D.

Dateless on Valentine's

I'm 28 years old. This Valentine's
Day will mark my IIth straight year
without a date. I'm an above-average Joe. Many of my friends tell me
that I need to stop trying so hard,
and dates will come to me. I always
feel in a perfect world that's true.
Could it be that the women here are
too picky, or is there something I'm
not doing right? Online dating services are no help, I get the same
results. Nothing! What is wrong?

-ANONYMOUS

First of all, no one had Valentine's dates at age 17. Well, no one except that duo who will forever be living down their "Chuck and Tiffani 4 EVAH" tattoos, so knock a few years off your dateless total.

I have a feeling that your fixation on the dry spell is a much bigger problem than the spell itself. Let go of the numbers. A great many people would gladly erase the majority of dates from their memory; the only reason they don't is to use the stories for laughs at dinner parties.

You obviously made friends somehow; think about how you did that. Focus on surrounding yourself with good people who know good people. Speaking of your friends, they and your family know you better than anyone. Tell them to give it to you straight: if they think you're trying too hard, ask them exactly how. "It'll happen when you least expect it" should be banned from the discussion.

Of course, a few sessions with a good therapist can also really get the insight machine going. But if your only baggage is that you haven't had the chance to accumulate any, many women would consider that a breath of fresh air. You've just got to keep on trucking.

How important are common interests in a relationship? I am head-over-heels for someone I've been dating for five months, and I think the feeling is mutual. But when I try to think about what we have in common, I really come up dry. So are we doomed or what? —CURIOUS

Technically, two people in a successful relationship need a minimum of one common interest: each other. Take two scenarios. "My boyfriend and I can talk for hours and really get a kick out of each other, but he refuses to learn to knit and I just don't get jujitsu." Or: "My boyfriend and I love sports, microbrews and Banana Republic, but we're drifting apart and don't seem to connect emotionally." Which couple do you put your money on? If you inspire each other, can make doing "nothing" together feel like quality time, and respect each other's morals, dreams and fears, then that's a wonderful start. You need not worry if you don't have his and hers blond highlights - look where that got Brad and Jen.

Send your mental health and emotional wellness questions to Andrea Bonior, Ph.D. at baggage@readexpress.com. This column is not a substitute for one-on-one care.

Bizarro | Dan Piraro



Cornered | Mike Baldwin



"Couldn't find anything wrong with this one. Maybe he's just lazy."

Pooch Cafe | Paul Gilligan









Pearls Before Swine | Stephan Pastis

Dear Mr. Head of Homeland
Security Guy,
You are protecting our
land against terrorists
and spying on the books
people take out of
libraries.

But What about sea anemones?... Is anyone watching the books THEY take out of libraries?

P.S. I only ask because one of them is trying to kill me.





The Duplex | Glenn McCoy



Letters

Quote Didn't Merit Reprinting

ONE OF THE QUOTES printed in the BlogLog in Tuesday's Express read, "I, for one, do not want to see the West destroyed. And given the vast differences between the ...

West and ... the Islamists, I don't see how we can co-exist." I just thought I'd chide you for giving the writer of that quote and its genocidal undertones a nice wide audience. Since you discovered the quote to begin with, it's clear that its author had at least one too many readers already.

-CHRIS ANCLIEN
Silver Spring, Md.

WRITE TO EXPRESS: Include name, hometown and telephone number. Submissions may be edited. E-mail to inbox@readexpress.com or mail to Express Letters. PO Box 17370. Arlington. VA 22216.

LIVE FROM THE WILSON BUILDING

Your IT guy might not appreciate it, and I know your coworkers won't like it when you scream back at the little guys on your screen spouting tripe about children and libraries."

BASEBALL BLOGGER DCBB.BLOGSPOT.COM, LIKE MANY OTHER OTHERS, WAS WATCHING THE LIVE ONLINE FEED OF TUESDAY'S D.C. COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS IN WHICH THE FATE OF THE NATIONALS' STADIUM LEASE WAS DELAYED YET ANOTHER DAY

THE Blog LOG

DEEL ATING EREDDY'S EGO

"The problem for Freddy is he has shown little on the field to date, other than a few tricks and some pretty goals. He hasn't even nailed down a starting spot on his squad in [Major League Soccer], not exactly a top-tier league ...'

MAINSTUSA.BLOGSPOT.COM THROWS IN TWO CENTS ON BRITISH MEDIA REPORTS THAT D.C. UNITED'S FREDDY ADU MIGHT BE LURED ACROSS THE POND TO CHELSEA.

POTATO-BASED REASONING

"If brains were french fries, Britney couldn't fill a Happy Meal."

THESUPERFICIAL.COM POSTS PHOTOS OF BRITNEY SPEARS ALLEGEDLY DRIVING WHILE HER INFANT SON SITS IN HER LAP.



SIDEWALK STUMPING

"He tipped his head down, looking at me from under the brim of his hat. 'At least I'm consistent,' he said."

WHEN **DIRECTCURRENT.BLOGSPOT.COM** WAS APPROACHED BY ADRIAN FENTY, THE BLOGGER CHALLENGED THE MAYORAL CANDIDATE'S "YES" VOTE ON THE SMOKING BAN.

leave the stove off. Much has been written on the raw foods diet. If you're interested in seeing how cleansed your system may or may not feel when you eat nothing but uncooked veggies, get in touch with the Northern Virginia Raw Food Meetup Group via rawfood.meetup.com.

Horoscope

By Stella Wilder

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) Things may be changing slightly, but nothing should transpire which leaves you in the dark. By day's end, routine should be restored. PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) You must prepare to receive a message that contains information you can no longer do without. A return acknowledgment is surely in order.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) One of your pet projects may have to be suspended for a time as a result of dwindling resources. Don't drop it altogether, however,

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) Routine affairs may be more complicated than expected -and external influences aren't likely to help. Keep moving forward, regardless. GEMINI (May 21-June 20) You can share your thoughts and feelings openly with someone whom you consider a brother or sister. That bond will be even stronger. CANCER (June 21-July 22) You have the

opportunity to be part of something very exciting and involving. You can be sure a supporting role will grow into a lead-

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) You must do all you can to avoid using your own personal power to lord it over other people. Be patient and gentle in your teachings.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) You'll have the chance to strut your stuff — but you may have to wait some time until you get the chance again. Make it count.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) Your attachment to the people you work with may be threatened by a situation which demands you to take the initiative — and the lead.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) Routine efforts may not be enough; you're going to have to work a little harder to receive the rewards. you've become used to these days.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) Take time out to assess your current standing—as seen by yourself, your family members, and those more distant from yourself as well. CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) There is no reason for you not to go full out, especially when you are facing a familiar opponent who knows most of your tricks.

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National Weather for Wednesday, February 8

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70s

5 Day Forecast for the Washington Area



Partiv cloudy, cold

Tonight

24°



39° / 24°



Increasingly cloudy

45°/29°



"First, this isn't the fun Bethesda. It's

two miles of walking. And how much fun

is walking down [Rockville] Pike drunk

on a Friday night? Zero units of fun."

CREATOR HAS MOVED TO SEATTLE. A NEW

NOW THAT **whyihatedc.blogspot.com**'s

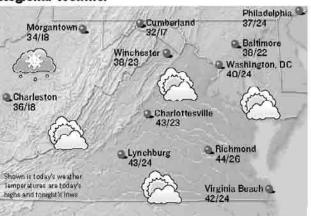
41° / 26°



Partly sunny, cold

36°/23°

Regional Weather



Forecasts and graphics provided by AccuWeather, Inc. @2006

Almanac

Washington, D.C., through 4 p.m. Tues. Temperature Normal high Normal low

Precipitation

Average humidity

24 hours ending 4 p.m.	0.00*
Month to date	
Normal month to date	0.64"
Year to date	4.35"
Last year to date	3.35*
Normal year to date	3.85"

For up-to-the-minute weather, see washingtonnost.com/weather

Regional Forecast

D.C. Metro: Today, partly sunny, chilly. High 40. Wind northwest 6-12 mph. Tonight, partly cloudy, cold. Low 24. Wind northwest 5-10 mph.

Sun and Moon

Sunrise today	. 7:08 a.m.
Sunset tonight	5:37 p.m.
Moonrise today	1:14 p.m.
Moonset today	4:21 a.m.

Feb 12





National Cities

1-storms

	Today	Thur.
City	Hi/Lo/W	Hi/Lo/W
Atlanta	50/30/pc	46/30/s
Boston	33/21/s	32/23/pc
Chicago	30/16/sf	37/24/sf
Dallas	66/32/s	59/43/s
Denver	51/26/s	59/20/s
Honolulu	79/65/sh	77/63/s
Los Angeles	87/52/s	82/50/s
Miami	72/51/sh	69/49/pc
New York City	39/24/e	34/26/pc
Orlanda	CC (20 %	CA1201

	World Ci	tics	
	City	Today Hi/Lo/W	Thui. Hi/Lo/W
\$	Amsterdam	43/36/sh	41/36/pc
С	Athens	46/35/pc	54/43/pc
f	Berlin	36/30/r	31/23/sr
	Buenos Aires	81/64/pc	76/65/p
	Calgary	50/20/pc	40/20/p
:	Dublin	43/34/c	43/32/0
\$	Geneva	38/28/1	34/23/st
C	Moscow	-6/-18/pc	10/0/c
C	Rome	50/40/pc	54/42/pc
•	Sydney	79/64/5	B4/66/t
1	Tokyo	48/36/sh	45/32/pc

52/37/9



Big Game Fishing

Seafood

Want to get a lobster for only \$2? Brush up your arcade skills

You don't have to be a fisherman to catch lobsters anymore.

At a neighborhood store in Scarborough, Maine — and at restaurants and bars in more than a dozen states — customers can plunk down \$2 for a chance to catch their very own lobster using a mechanical claw in an arcade-style game.

The apparatus is a new version of the old-style amusement game in which players put in a quarter or two in hopes of grabbing a stuffed animal. But instead of plush toys, the Love Maine Lobster Claw game has a water-filled tank full of lobsters.

If it did, we'd

have problems, because then it would be destroying our inventory."

JOE ZUCCHERO

PRESIDENT OF MARINE ECOLOGICAL HABITATS, SAYING THE COMPANY'S MACHINES DON'T HARM LOBSTERS

When a lobster is caught, the restaurants cook it for free and serve it with side dishes.

"He looks like a keeper," said Frank Margel of Westbrook, eyeing a mottled-green crustacean at Eight Corners Market before giving the game a try.

It's easier said than done, how-

Unlike stationary stuffed ani-



Pete Walsh said about eight lobsters are caught in his store's machine each week.

mals, the lobsters flap their tails, flail their claws and squirm this way and that, making them elusive prey. "Those lobsters are lively. They're ready for competition," Margel said a minute later — and \$2 poorer — after the crustacean slipped away.

Marine Ecological Habitats in Biddeford has been making the Love Maine Lobster game for just over a year, said Joe Zucchero, the company president. A Florida company, The Lobster Zone, makes a similar machine that it says can be found in more than 20 U.S. states.

The game has its critics. Playing with the creatures before sending them to their deaths rubs some people the wrong way.

"Turning animal cruelty into a game is absolutely hideous," said Karin Robertson of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals.

A restaurant in Pittsburgh removed its lobster game last week in response to PETA's campaign against the machines, even though Paul Carrozzi, owner of Roland's Seafood Grill, said he doesn't agree the machine is inhumane.

At Eight Corners Market, customers typically play the game 25 to 30 times a day and catch about eight or so lobsters a week, said store owner Peter Walsh.

"If somebody's playing this game and someone else walks in the store, I guarantee they'll play because they'll see how fun it is," Walsh said. CLARKE CANFIELD (AP)





Styles L





Varied

looks for

your lover

Sweeten her up with LOUNGEWEAR BETTY's silk CUPCAKE BRA and RUFFLE PANTY. The ribbon in the front makes it seem like you're getting a little present every time she takes it off. Combined with the fluffy hipster panty, it's an ensemble guaranteed to ruffle your feathers. (BRA, \$57, PANTY, \$62, ROMANCE FOR THE SENSES, 1102 KING ST., ALEXANDRIA; 703-549-1102)

> GapBody's LACE ULTRA PUSH-UP (\$32) and LOW LACE HIPSTER (\$15) will seduce the gal who's a blend of sexy and sweet. The underwire and padded cups up top add oomph, while the boy shorts keep the ensemble from wandering into TrashyLand. A note of caution: Only give this to your girl if you're sure she already wears push-ups. Otherwise, that's a nasty hint. (SEE GAPBODY.COM FOR STORES)

Valentine's



Where to Buy Love

IKEA isn't a place you think of for Valentine's gifts. ("Look, honey! A Bibbi Snurr!") But this year on Feb. 14, those who arrive at the College Park and Woodbridge stores by 9 a.m. are eligible to compete in a SEARCH FOR A DIAMOND RING hidden somewhere in a room setting. (You're not allowed to line up before 6 a.m.) If your tastes run indie, CRAFTS AND KISSES is an evening of shopping and music featuring local designers and artists. (Feb. 9 from 7 p.m.-10 p.m. at the DC Arts Center (2438 18th St. NW; dcartscenter.org). KRISTEN PAGE-KIRBY (EXPRESS)

women tend to differ on what they'd like for Valentine's Day. But if you're trying to walk the cliche line with unique underwear, we have four lingerie looks designed for her pleasure. KRISTEN PAGE-KIRBY (EXPRESS)

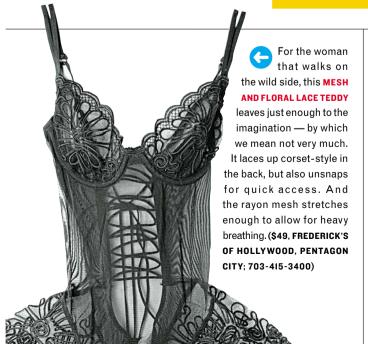
This might surprise you, but

Beauty

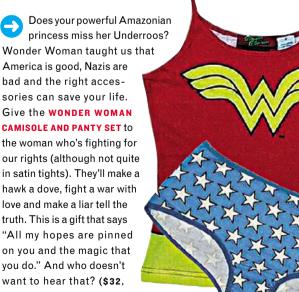


Men Need Five Blades

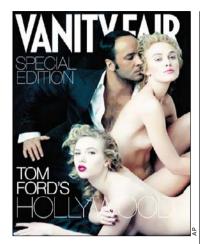
More! We want more! More is always better! Such is the idea behind the GILLETTE FUSION (\$10), which has five blades on one side and one on the other—truly the Wolverine of razors. The "manual" model (we didn't test the battery-powered option) slices hair like a samurai on steroids, providing a closer, more comfortable shave. It particularly excelled when our tester had to shave twice in one day; the blades eliminated five o'clock shadow without the slightest burn. In fact, because the blades are so close together, they feel like one blade going across the face. The single blade, meant for trimming sideburns and under the nose, was deemed effective but superfluous. K.P.K.



America is good, Nazis are bad and the right accessories can save your life. Give the WONDER WOMAN **CAMISOLE AND PANTY SET to** the woman who's fighting for our rights (although not quite in satin tights). They'll make a hawk a dove, fight a war with love and make a liar tell the truth. This is a gift that says "All my hopes are pinned on you and the magic that you do." And who doesn't want to hear that? (\$32, BUST.COM)



People



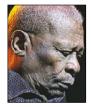
Stripping Naked Isn't Going To Win You the Oscar, Keira

Under the eve of photographer Annie Leibovitz, SCARLETT JOHANSSON and KEIRA KNIGHTLY posed nude for the cover of Vanity Fair magazine's yearly Hollywood issue. Fashion superstar Tom Ford also appears in the photo — but clothed. (AP)

MAN'S BEST FRIEND

He's Singing the Mean **People Took My Dog Blues**

B.B. KING'S dog, Lucille, has disappeared, and the legendary bluesman is offering an autographed copy of



one of his signature "Lucille" guitars in an effort to get her back. The 2-year-old white female Maltese went

missing about 10 days ago in West Hollywood while she was under the care of his co-manager. Canvassing nearby animal shelters and putting up some 500 signs failed to turn up any trace ofher. (AP)



Drive Me Crazy

BRITNEY SPEARS explained that she was driving her SUV with her son, Sean Preston, perched on her lap rather than strapped into a car seat in the back because of a "horrifying, frightful encounter with the paparazzi." "I instinctively took measures to get my baby and me out of harm's way," she said. "I love my child and would do anything to protect him." (AP)

FAMILY ENTERTAINMENT

'Girlie Action' Is OK, **Synonym for Rooster Is Not**

Nobody turns off the microphone on MICK JAGGER without a fight. Censorship during the Super Bowl halftime show was "absolutely ridiculous and completely unnecessary," the Rolling Stones said through a spokeswoman. The NFL silenced Jagger's microphone during sex-



ually suggestive passages of two of the three songs the band performed for 90 million television viewers. (AP)

Being Popular Is Lame, **Decides Hottie Pop Star**

JOHN MAYER says his next album won't have the "pop sweetness" of current hits. On 2005's "Try" with the John Mayer Trio, the singer-songwriter shifted gears from pop music. like his hit "Your BodyisWonderland," to blues. Mayer said he hopes to continue that trend with his upcoming third solo album, promising no "pop music tricks." "I'm | Lewis and the News. (AP)

not trying to write my best Coldplay song the way I've tried before," he said. "Instead I am writing what I am most prepared for writ-

> ing, which is a blues or soul approach to a pop song. Hoping that in 20 years it lasts and it doesn't date itself." He hopes a blues approach will keep his music timeless. "Blues never gets dated," the guitarist said, noting his

desire to be enjoyable like Huey



France to Give Ethan **Hawke a Good Beating**

France honored UMA THURMAN Tuesday, proclaiming the "classic and disconcerting beauty" a knight in the Order of Arts and Letters.

> a model-actress, admired throughout the world and especially in our country, France," said Cannes Film Festival Director Gilles Jacob. He presented the award on behalf of the country's Culture Ministry. Jacob evoked her "atypical and bohemian" childhood as the daughterofarenowned Tibet scholar, who was named for a Hindu goddess. "The public discovered your grace and sensuality," Jacob said. (AP)



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Introducing... | Edited by Timothy E. Parker

ACROSS

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- 14 Banned apple
- spray
- 15 He was Hawkeye 16 "The Last
- Judgment," e.g.
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Yesterday's Solution

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Today in History

Mary, Queen of Scots, was beheaded at Fotheringhay Castle in England after she was implicated in a plot to murder her cousin, Queen Elizabeth I.

1693 A charter was granted for the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, Va. D.W. Griffith's controversial

1915 Silent movie epic about the Civil War, "The Birth of a Nation," premiered in Los Angeles.

1922 President Harding had a radio installed in the White House.

1968 Three college Students were killed in a confron-Three college students $tation\,with\,high way\,patrol men\,in\,Orange$ burg, S.C., during a civil rights protest against a whites-only bowling alley.

Su|do|ku| © Puzzles by Pappocom

Degree of Difficulty: MEDIUM

Fill in the boxes so that each row, column and 3-by-3 square includes the digits 1 through 9. For solution, tips and computer program, see www.sudoku.com

Yesterday's Solution

4	1	3	9	5	2	8	7	6
5	g	2	7	8	6	1	4	3
6	7	8	3	4	1	2	9	5
9	8	6	2	3	7	4	5	1
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7	2	4	5	1	8	3	6	9
3	6	7	8	2	5	9	1	4
2	4	9	1	6	3	5	8	7
8	5	1	4	7	9	6	3	2

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KEEPING IN TOUCH WITH CUSTOMERS

Celebrate Cultural Diversity During Black History Month

The Washington metropolitan area is known for hosting cultural and performing arts events year-round, and February is no exception. A multitude of events throughout the month will celebrate African-American history and our nation's cultural diversity.

The Washington Reflections Dance Company, which uses the African-American experience as inspiration for new and exciting art, will present several performances to commemorate Black History Month. This up-and-coming group has choreographed a diverse program, using dance as a medium to reflect upon the rich cultural history of African-Americans. Dancers will depict the journey from oppression to emancipation and revolution, and pay tribute to such icons as civil



rights leader Rosa Parks and the Queen of Soul, Aretha Franklin.

Performances will take place at 8 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 11, and 4 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 12, at Dance Place, 3225 8th Street NE. Metro to Brookland-CUA on the Red Line or ride Metrobus lines 80, G or H. For more information, visit danceinstitute.org.

For a complete list of events celebrating Black History Month, check out The Washington Post's City Guide online at washingtonpost.com.

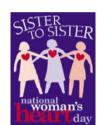
Why Wait for Warmer Weather? Get moving with Metro to these events:

Washington Home and Garden Show

February 9-12 at the Washington Convention Center. Learn how to plant a perfect garden, or plan a new landscaping or home renovation project. Metro to Mt Vernon Sq/7th St-Convention Center station on the Green/ Yellow Lines. For more information, visit washingtonhomeandgardenshow.com.

Sister to Sister: National Woman's Heart Day Health Fair

February 17 at the MCI Center. Find out about women's heart disease and pick up heart-healthy tips from chefs and fitness trainers to get in shape in time for summer. Metro to Gallery Place/Chinatown on the Yellow/Green/Red Lines. For more information, visit sistertosister.org.



Washington Boat Show

February 22-26 at the Washington Convention Center. See more than 500 boats and get hints to plan your first water excursion in 2006. Metro to Mt Vernon Sg/7th St-Convention Center station on the Green/Yellow Lines. For more information, visit washingtonboatshow.com.

METRO TIP

Soon you'll hear a new voice on Metrorail cars. It belongs to Randi Miller (below) and she'll have some helpful tips for boarding and exiting trains. So listen for Randi and take her advice. She knows what she's talking

about!



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Metro is constantly working to improve safety and security for riders of

the nation's transit system. Officials from Metro have visited companies and federal offices during the past year to give lunchtime seminars focusing on Metro's safety features and how to prepare for an emergency.

These informal discussions are a great way to learn how to evacuate a train, recognize safety features in trains and tunnels and plan an alternate route home. Officials also discuss

Metro security enhancements and are available to answer questions.

Metro has also implemented an emergency preparedness outreach program where officials visit different stations on the first Tuesday of every month to hand out literature and discuss safety on Metrobus and Metrorail. Next month's outreach will take place at Union Station.

For more information about emergency preparedness, visit <u>MetroOpensDoors.com</u> and click on How to Travel, then Safety & Security. And be sure to check out the Emergency Preparedness page.

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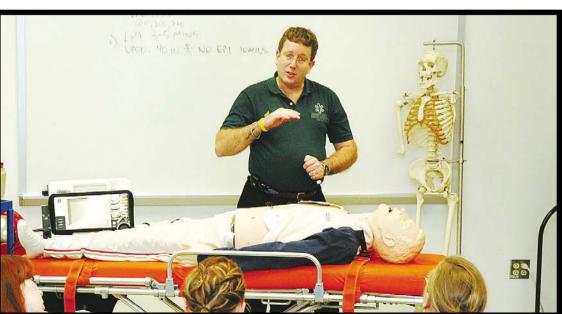
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Rescue Classes

D.C.-area programs prepare students for careers as emergency medical technicians | **E2**

Bookish Ways: Want to pen the great American novel? Try a creative writing class | **E9**



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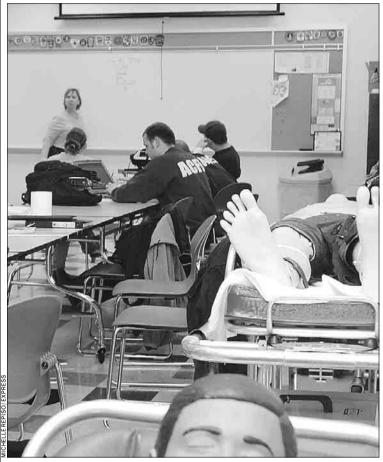
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Getting Ahead



In a room full of plastic mannequins at Northern Virginia Community College, Kathleen Deal teaches about the science and art of emergency medicine.

Get Some Career CPR

Local programs ready students for work as paramedics

Anthony Mills spent the past 15 years working in software and Web development. Then came the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. Inspired by the emergency rescuers he saw on television, the 42-year-old Herndon resident began taking classes with the aim of volunteering on an emergency response team.

After a couple of calls, Mills realized it was something he wanted to do more than part-time, and he readjusted his schedule to go on ride-alongs with local emergency units. "You only run one or two calls before you're hooked," he said. Now, he's a part-time stu-

dent at Associates in Emergency Care, a specialized school based in Maryland, and hopes to soon get a full-time job as an emergency medical technician. "The feeling you get when you walk away [from emergency care] is very different from the feeling you get when you design a Web site for somebody," he said.

Like Mills, many are spurred into the profession by the combination of an adrenaline rush and altruism. The job of emergency medical technicians and paramedics—who are trained at a higher level than basic EMTs—can be challenging with long, intense hours. But it's rarely boring and can give people a sense of purpose not found in many other professions. There are a variety of training programs in the area, some of which don't even charge tuition.



Instructor Jeff Lewis, center, discusses EMT training with his students at Northern Virginia Community College.

And emergency units are constantly looking for trained medics.

Plagued by a high burnout rate and low starting pay, EMTs are in short supply. Bob Loftus, an officer at the National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians, estimated that most EMTs last for about 10 years before moving on to less strenuous positions.

"For a lot of people it just doesn't turn out to what they thought it would be," he said. "Part of it is the stress, but part of it is the pay scale"

The positive side of high turnover, of course, is that many new jobs are opening up. The Bureau of Labor Statistics estimates that EMT and paramedic jobs will grow much faster than most careers in the next few years as baby boomers You only do one

or two calls before you're hooked. The feeling you get when you walk away [from emgency care] is very different from the feeling you get you design a Web site for somebody."

> ANTHONY MILLS STUDENT

age and are increasingly in need of emergency services.

In addition, many rural areas need part-time medics, so those who don't want to give up their day job can often volunteer in smaller communities.

Though the base pay rate is low, there's ample opportunity to earn more money, according to Gretchen Wills, a director at Associates in Emergency Care. In the D.C.-area, an entry-level EMT position will likely pay between \$25,000 and \$35,000, according to the University of Virginia's EMT program based in Charlottesville. But, said Wills, well-trained medics can often land signing bonuses, and "a lot of places have high overtime or holiday pay."

What's important, Wills said, is being able to handle all aspects of the job. "You can't have a weak stomach, that's for sure."

Certainly, medics have to be able to deal with sick and dying people. When Mills started riding

Continued on page E4



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Getting Ahead



At NVCC, Gary Fitzsimmons, center, uses a mannequin to illustrate his lecture.

Continued from page E3

in ambulances, he saw some gruesome scenes that were emotionally taxing. "I hadn't been in the emergency room for a week before we had a patient who expired under my hands while I was doing CPR," he said.

Some states and counties regulate EMT training and certification, though now many areas have adopted national standards. (Virginia is an exception, and still has its own classification system.) Those standards divide training into three levels: EMT-Basic, EMT-Intermediate and EMT-Paramedic.

The general consensus is that a good medic (and thus one more likely to get a job) should complete at least the intermediate level of certification. Many area community colleges offer EMT training as an associate's degree. In addition, some fire and rescue departments, including Loudoun County, Va., offer training to those who join the squad. There are also several private schools around the area, including Associates in **Emergency Care and East Coast** EMS Associates, that specialize in EMT and paramedic training. Prospective students should

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call their state's Department of Health Services to find out which programs are certified. Legitimate programs will be accredited by the state. An EMT-Basic course generally requires a high-school diploma and CPR certification. The EMT-Basic course at Northern Virginia Community College lasts 16 weeks and includes four hours of labs each week, plus clinical rotations and ride-a longs with emergency response teams.

Erin Fortier, 23, who just started taking the class, said she'll learn basic first aid, how to assess a patient and how to deliver a baby. "I do five complete sets of vitals every week," she said. "I do them on my roommates, people in

66 The standard

is you cannot be a very good street medic until you've got about five years of experience."

> BOB LOFTUS VIRGINIA TECH

my office, anyone who will lend me their arm."

After finishing their classroom work, many ride with established units as medics-in-training before being hired. Even then, it's expe-

rience that really counts. "The standard is you cannot be a very good street medic until you've got about five years of experience," said Loftus.

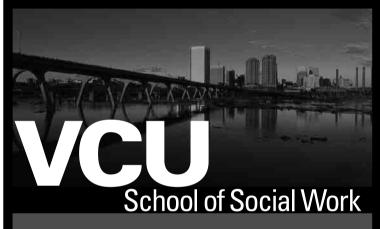
Like all emergency services, ambulances are always open for business, and many EMTs work 24-hour shifts, often several in a row. That might mean that you get paid to sleep on a quiet night, or that you are awakened by a call every few hours. Still, few enter the field because they want a good night's rest. "I don't know anybody that does this because it's an easy job," said Mills. They do it, he said, because, "somebody needs to do this. Who better than me?"

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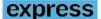
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AMY JOYCE's column appears Sundays in The Washington Post. She chats every Tuesday at 11 a.m. on washingtonpost.com/liveonline.

I provided a reference for a former co-worker who did not get the job she was applying for. Her "thank you" note to me for providing the reference was a nasty (and vulgar) rant about the company. She's extremely bitter she wasn't hired. How does she expect to get a new job if that's her attitude? I was a little shocked, and we're not good friends so I'm surprised she sent me a note like that. I'm certainly not inclined to provide another reference.

Uh, yeah. No more references for her. You can just drop it with this person. Or if you are inclined to help, tell her that you understand it's tough. but there's a lot of competition out there and a letter like that will get her nowhere. Fast.

I'm the supervisor of a division comprised of people who are very friendly outside of work. In the office, they are generally productive but a few times a day they'll congregate for 15 to 20 minutes and chat about personal things. I want to maintain a harmonious group but I sometimes wonder if there's a little too much "down" time, especially when things get backed up. Any thoughts on when water-cooler time gets to be too much?

It gets to be too much when you notice a downturn in work, or you think they simply should get more work done. If this happens, speak to them individually that they need to pick up the pace a little. But having workers who are friendly with each other and chat during the day, don't forget, is a great thing. They probably have a better working relationship than lots of offices out there (just read this chat) which leads to higher productivity and more coordination and cooperation.

I am interviewing for several jobs this week. A potential issue is that mv wife and I have been planning an overseas trip for a couple of years. We plan on taking a two or three week trip to Europe in the summer. When I start getting offers (hopefully!) is it OK to tell them that a vaca-

tion this summer is in the works, and I would like to take time off during that time? Or would it be wiser to postpone the vacation until I have had some time on the job?

I don't feel like two weeks is such a tall order. When it gets to negotiation time, throw that in there. Explain that this was a long time in the planning and you would like to stick with it, will figure out a way to make it work, etc. But also give them an out. Explain that you know it would still be early in the job, and so if they need you to postpone it, that's still a possibility. (Unless you already have the tickets.)

I work with a guy who seems to be losing it. He tells the same stories day after day, makes fun of the same people for the same things. And now. I think he is totally out of control. The guy started a blog to make fun of his colleagues. His jokes aren't even funny - that's the worst part. What should I do?

If he's a friend of yours, you should pull him aside and have a *real* conversation with him. It sounds like he needs some help. If he continues on this path, people aren't going to want to work with him. He could also get himself fired. Save him from himself if you can.

I've just been offered a new job. The offer is contingent upon an in-person meeting with the program director in California. They want me to meet with him right away. However, they are being really cheap about the flight. They are asking me to take a flight with a four-hour layover in each direction. They openly told me that they only use discount flights. I can only imagine what hotel I will be staying at. Is this a big red flag, or am I just not accustomed to the ways of business travel?

Sounds like a bit of a red flag. A four-hour lavover in each direction is the equivalent of an entire workday. I'm sure there are other options, no? If nothing else, I would be a little put off that they wanted you to fly out, but they would inconvenience you greatly to do that.

How should one address a co-worker who seems to lack boundaries and sees it as okay to commandeer office chairs and decorative artwork from other offices in order to better appoint his own? He claims that it all "belongs to the company," meaning his behavior

Continued on page E8



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Continued from page E7

is somehow okay. This is not the acquisition of stuff from empty offices either — in some cases the victims were out on travel.

Is this for real? That's so over the top, it sounds like an episode from The Office. Unless this person has taken your chair or your artwork, leave it alone. If he has commandeered your stuff, go talk to someone — a manager, HR, etc. Or just take it back. Weird.

My employer began complaining about my work immediately after a change in marital status. I was even told this was the reason for my "lack of attention to detail." Is this discrimination or just someone

being a jerk?

It could be either. First, make sure your work ethic hasn't changed. Then, if you're starting to feel like it's discrimination (which obviously, you do), begin documenting everything you're doing and his responses to that.

My husband is taking a job in California. My plan is to tell my employer about the move after we have a contract on the house. Is it okay to only give two to three weeks notice?

Unless you're in the midst of a very busy season and your work-place depends on you and won't be able to find a replacement, two to three weeks is usually fine. If you

are comfortable giving a little more notice (as in you are sure they won't tell you to leave immediately) then go ahead and stretch it out as much as you can.

Asking for a pay raise, but here's the twist: The person's work visa is connected to that job. So, in a sense, the negotiation is very unbalanced because the person doesn't have the option to say "That raise isn't enough for what I do, I am walking." Any advice for a person who is taking up the responsibilities of two other employees with no corresponding raise in pay?

This person, though they must tread lightly, should also just ask or

request some sort of compensation for the heavily increased workload. Just because they are working with a visa doesn't mean they should be sent into slave labor.

This person needs to schedule a meeting with a supervisor, outline all the duties they have taken on and explain that they aren't compensated for it, but would like to be, and think they have earned that pay increase. No need to threaten to walk, because the employer probably knows they won't. But the issue needs to be brought to the employers' attention. Sad.

In March, I'm being asked to fill in for my boss while she's on maternity leave for three months. Is it reasonable to expect a bonus for this added workload and responsibilities?

Don't ever expect anything. If you want it and think you've earned it, you should probably ask for it. A simple "will I be compensated for the extra work?" should suffice. Once you have your answer, on from there.

What is an appropriate way to handle a woman at work who stares at me with a stern look? Whenever I see her in the hallway or the restroom, she stands and stares. I'm ready to ask, "May I help you?"

That seems adequate. But say it nicely. She may not realize she's staring.

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Novel Courses

Local creative writing programs can help you hone your prose

When Amina Hafiz enrolled in American University's creative program, she didn't expect the degree to help her move up the corporate ladder or land a highpaying job. "[I] took a M.F.A. to learn how to write a novel," the 31year-old California native said.

And by that measure, Hafriz has been quite successful. She is putting the finishing touches on a novel about an alcoholic Los Angeles woman's quest for sobriety and self-discovery and is currently looking for a publisher for the book. "I got so much more than I really expected I would," she said.

Decades ago, an aspiring writer might have just wanted a room of their own. Today, however, students of fiction and poetry are increasingly seeking academic



DAVID FENZA

ASSOCIATION OF WRITERS AND WRITING PROGRAMS

degrees to help them polish their craft. And academic institutions have been meeting demand by creating dozens of new creative writing programs.

Today, there are about twice as many creative writing Master of Fine Arts programs as there were in the early 1990s, and about seven times as many as there were in the mid-1970s, according to the Association of Writers and Writing Programs. In fact, each year as many as 3,000 students graduate from M.F.A. programs with book-length manuscripts in hand. Each of the grads, of course, hopes that their novel or book of poems will get published and sit on bookshelves and night stands.

Some increase in creative writing enrollment can simply be attributed to overall growth of universities and, by extension, graduate degrees.

But AWP executive director David Fenza said that there has long been a "pent-up demand" for creative writing programs. It's just taken a while for English departments to catch up.

"Departments of English preferred their authors dead." Fenza said, because critics and scholars "have more power when [writers] are entombed in anthologies." In other words, literature professors and department heads were in no rush to develop budding writers

Continued on page E10

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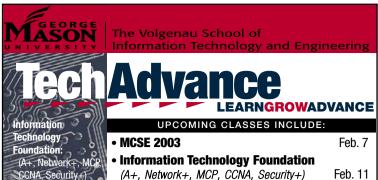
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Getting Ahead

Continued from page E9

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- the late greats suited them just fine.

However, supply has started catching up with demand, giving aspiring writers hundreds of programs to choose from. In the D.C. area, several universities offer graduate degrees in writing. A few private, non-degree-granting schools such as the Writer's Center in Bethesda also offer classes by published novelists and poets.

Students in the University of Marvland's Creative Writing M.F.A. program have up to three years to complete a 36credit course load in either fiction or poetry writing. As part of the program, students take a combination of writing workshops and literary studies classes, such as Literary Criticism, Studies in Narrative, Poetic Form or Literary Research.

"We dote on a lot of individual[s]," UMd program director Stanly Plumly said. "All the students have to be pushed, and we push them pretty hard."

George Mason University also prides itself on having a rigorous creative writing program. Students can choose from concentrations in fiction, poetry or creative non-fiction. "Before [a student's writing] gets published, they've got to get it right," Professor Alan Cheuse said. Typically, writing students will get feedback from teachers and fellow students during workshops. The writing is finished, Cheuse said, "when the work seems it can't get any further."

Traditionally, creative writing programs concentrated in fiction and poetry. But some

schools also offer a non-fiction focus. For example, students in Johns Hopkins University's creative writing master's program can specialize in science writing. This is a one-year program offered at the Dupont Circle campus.

While all Washington-area graduate programs in creative writing might make similar claims about the quality and rigor of their offerings, schools vary widely and choosing a program which is best suited for your needs may be difficult. But expert advice falls into a few main camps.

"You really should not apply to a writing program until you

to a point where I really want to study the craft of writing.'

JACKIE WALKER

acquaint yourself with the published work of teachers in a program," Fenza said. For a good fit, Fenza said, students don't have to want to write exactly like their professor, but they should respect and admire his or her writing.

"Otherwise, it's going to be a long two or three years," he said.

William Miller, head of GMU's program, agreed that applicants should look for programs with teachers they respect. But he added that most students tend to benefit from an eclectic faculty. "The more diverse a faculty group is, the less homogenizing a writing program will be,"

Miller said.

Aspiring writers should think twice before deciding to apply to a program, since they require considerable amounts of money (Johns Hopkins charges \$2,160 per class) and time.

Students should also spend some time polishing their writing samples before they apply because admission into a degree-granting program is usually highly competitive. GMU usually accepts less than 20 percent of applicants; UMd accepts 5 to ten percent of its applicants.

Admissions panels at such schools are not only scrutinizing writing samples for quality, but they also look to see if the work is compatible with their faculties' expertise, Miller said. In other words, applicants must first show some potential. Then they have to demonstrate a writing style that the program's professors want to work with.

While the majority of students in local programs are in their mid- to late-twenties, some students decided to pursue creative writing later in life. "I've gotten to a point where I really want to study the craft of writing," second-year GMU student Jackie Walker said.

Walker, 42, had been working on her creative writing for several years while she worked full time before she decided to go back to school part time. She said a big reason she's pursuing a creative writing degree is that she's part of a community of like-minded writers and teachers. "Being in a program really allows you to study writing on a really deep level." BENJAMIN WEINSTEIN

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